



**For Immediate Release**

Feb. 23, 2016

## **Hopedale Resident Diagnosed with Tuberculosis**

**Happy Valley-Goose Bay:** Labrador-Grenfell Health announced today that a resident of Hopedale, Labrador, has been diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB). The diagnosis was confirmed on Feb. 15, 2016, and the individual is presently undergoing treatment. At this point in the investigation, it appears that this diagnosis is not related to the recent cases of TB in Labrador or St. Anthony.

Management of the case is being coordinated through a team approach involving Labrador-Grenfell Health, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Nunatsiavut Public Health, and the Department of Health and Community Services. Contact tracing is under way to identify those individuals who have had close contact with the patient. Close contacts are individuals who have had regular, prolonged contact with a person who tests positive for TB.

“Our investigation is focused on all persons who have been in close contact with the individual who has TB to determine if they are at risk for exposure to the infection,” said Dr. David Allison, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Newfoundland and Labrador. “When we make contact with these individuals, we educate them about TB and what to do if they think they may have symptoms, or if they have questions.”

“As a result of a review of the case history of the patient, we believe there is a low risk of others contracting TB through contact with the individual; however, we wish to assure the public that we will be diligent in our investigation and in our process of contact tracing,” Dr. Allison added. “We also wish to make it clear that if you are not contacted, you are not considered to be a close contact and will not require testing.”

Tuberculosis is a disease caused by bacteria known as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The disease-causing bacteria is spread in the air, through coughing, laughing, sneezing, singing or talking. Following a significant exposure to the bacteria, a person may develop dormant or latent TB which is not infectious.

A small proportion of people exposed may develop active TB which can infect the lungs, but can also affect other parts of the body, including the kidneys or spine. Symptoms may include a cough that lasts for two weeks or more, chest pain, loss of appetite, fever, feeling weak and night sweats.

Treatment to cure TB normally involves taking medication for a period six to 12 months.

Further information about Tuberculosis is available online at [www.lghealth.ca](http://www.lghealth.ca), or by calling the NL Healthline at 811.

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