



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

Southwestern College Contact: Nevada Smith (619) 482-6564

TB CASE REPORTED AT SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE'S HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER AT NATIONAL CITY

HHSA Working with School Officials to Identify Those Who May Have Been Exposed

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is working with Southwestern College officials to notify students and faculty who were possibly exposed to tuberculosis (TB).

An individual who was in two classes at Southwestern College's Higher Education Center at National City campus has been diagnosed with TB. The individual attended classes during the summer and fall 2008.

"Anyone who may have been exposed should contact their healthcare provider and ask about getting tested," says Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. "This action will help us stop the spread of TB in our community."

HHSA's TB Control, working closely with school officials, has identified approximately 75 students and faculty at the Higher Education Center at National City who may have been exposed. Southwestern College has sent notification letters to the affected individuals.

Tuberculosis is not uncommon in the San Diego region. In 2007, there were 280 total cases of tuberculosis in San Diego County. In 2008 to date, there have been 155 cases of TB.

Symptoms of active TB include persistent cough, fever, night sweats and unexplained weight loss. Most people who are exposed to TB do not develop the disease.

Southwestern College students who may have been exposed may be tested at no cost at Student Health Services on the Chula Vista, National City and Otay Mesa locations. For questions regarding testing, please call Student Health Services at (619) 482-6354.

Individuals with no medical provider, or anyone who would like more information, may call the County TB Control Program at (619) 692-8621.

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 207 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2472