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September 15, 2026

RAE PATTERSON, MD
Otay Mesa Detention Facility
7488 Calzada de la Fuente
San Diego, CA 92154

Re: FAILURE TO REPORT TUBERCULOSIS CASES

Dear Dr. Patterson:

It is the duty of California health care providers, and each person in charge of a health facility, to promptly report to the local health officer when there are reasonable grounds to believe a person has active tuberculosis. (Cal. Health & Saf. § 121362; 17 CCR 2500.) Suspected cases must be reported within one working day, along with detailed information regarding the case.

The duty to report communicable diseases, the critical importance of timely compliance, and your staff's repeated failures to do so have been communicated numerous times. Training was also provided to your team last month to support process improvement. This issue was also identified in the California Attorney General's May 2026 inspection report and the County's August 2026 inspection report. Yet, as recently as August 27, 2026, we received a report from your facility involving a patient who was suspected of having tuberculosis and started treatment on August 5, 2026—a three-week reporting delay.

Enclosed is our reporting form which can be faxed to (619) 692-5516. Completion of this form will satisfy reporting requirements. We also have a 24-hour telephone reporting line at (619) 692- 8610.

Failure to comply with the duty to report a communicable disease may subject health care providers to professional licensing actions. (See 16 CCR 13064.11 (a) (37) (CA Medical Board Citable Offenses)).

Please contact myself or Dr. Jeffrey Percak, Medical Director of Tuberculosis Prevention and Care Branch, at jeffreym.percak@sdcounty.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sayone Thihalolipavan, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer
Health and Human Services Agency
County of San Diego

Encl. San Diego County Communicable Disease Reporting Form