



October 27, 2016

Dear Members of the UW Community,

We recently learned that a person on the University's Seattle campus has been diagnosed with active tuberculosis (TB). This person is receiving appropriate treatment and will not return to campus until he is no longer infectious. This case does not present a risk for the vast majority of our community, but we want you to be aware. We are working closely with the local public health department, Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC), to identify and notify those who may be at risk of infection due to close contact with this individual so they can be properly evaluated. Most people do not need to do anything in response to this information. If you are not contacted this week via email by Hall Health, you are not considered to have been exposed and no action is required. Individuals considered to have been exposed will be contacted soon – or have already been contacted – by Hall Health or PHSKC.

TB is not easily passed from person to person. It takes repeated and prolonged exposure in a confined indoor space to become infected with TB. The general public is not at increased risk to get TB infection as a result of this case. Any persons who have been exposed to someone with TB can be treated with medication to prevent TB based on the results of testing and evaluation.

Experts tell us that TB is an ongoing global public health concern, and with our region at a global crossroads, it's not surprising to see active TB cases here. It's reassuring to know that our public health partners have a system in place to quickly respond to cases when they are diagnosed, so that people can be screened and treated before larger outbreaks can occur. Thanks to these efforts, our campus community continues to be a safe environment for you. We are communicating this information campus-wide out of an abundance of caution and to be transparent about this public health incident. We are working closely with our public health partners, and we have taken measures to ensure the safety of our students and employees. Your safety is our top priority.

If you have any questions about TB, you can learn more at the [CDC](http://www.cdc.gov/tb/default.htm) and [Public Health – Seattle & King County](http://kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/TB.aspx) websites: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/default.htm> and <http://kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/TB.aspx>. Again, unless you received an individual email or contact from Hall Health or PHSKC, no action on your part is needed or advised.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,



Jude Van Buren, Dr.PH, MPH
Senior Director, Environmental Health & Safety Department