



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Health Department Confirms Active Tuberculosis Case in Arsenal 6-8 Student

**PITTSBURGH** – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has identified active tuberculosis (TB) in a student at Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8, which is located in Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville neighborhood. The student is not currently in school, is receiving medication to treat the illness, and is expected to return to normal activities in the near future.

ACHD officials are identifying individuals that may have been in close contact with the infected student to ensure that they are evaluated, tested, and treated appropriately.

TB is an infectious bacterial disease that is spread only through the air from one person to another. TB cannot be spread through food or drink, through clothing, or through skin contact, such as shaking hands or hugging. Also, it cannot be spread via surfaces.

The only way to contract the disease is to be extremely close to an infected person when they cough, sneeze, sing, or talk, and you breathe in the bacteria.

While ACHD has been proactive in identifying and contacting those that may be at risk, any individual should seek medical attention if they believe that they may be ill. Symptoms of TB can include a cough of longer than three weeks, unexplained weight loss, night sweats, chills, fever and coughing up blood.

Tuberculosis is preventable and curable and is typically treated for six-to-nine months with antibiotics. A person with TB will become non-infectious within a few days to weeks of effective treatment and will be able to return to normal activities without risk to others while completing treatment.

ACHD, Pittsburgh Public Schools and the TB Division of the Pennsylvania Department of Health will continue to work closely together to ensure that all precautions are being taken for the safety of students and staff at Arsenal 6-8.

For a list of frequently asked questions regarding tuberculosis, click [here](#). As always, questions or concerns may be directed to ACHD at 412-687-ACHD (2243).

If there are additional updates related to this investigation, ACHD will provide those via press release, if appropriate, and post details on the Health Department's [Facebook](#) page, county [Twitter](#), and send it to subscribers of [Allegheny Alerts](#). Pittsburgh Public Schools and the PA Department of Health will also receive the same updates and will share those on their own communication channels as appropriate.

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