

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

**Rick Scott**

Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**

State Surgeon General &amp; Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 7, 2013

Contact: Charles Griggs

904-253-1004

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN DUVAL INVESTIGATING  
TWO TUBERCULOSIS CASES AT LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**Jacksonville, FL** - The Florida Department of Health (DOH-Duval) is currently involved in the contact investigation around two cases of active Tuberculosis (TB) at Andrew Jackson Senior High School. School officials, as well as families of attending students, have been notified and are participating in the investigation. Approximately 100 students and six staff from the school have been identified for testing. Those individuals exposed are being medically evaluated and will be offered therapy, if found infected. The investigation was initiated following the recent hospitalization, and release, of one student with active TB.

A parent information meeting has been scheduled at the school for Thursday, November 14th at 5:00 p.m. with the DOH – Duval. Representatives will be available to answer any questions parents and students may have.

"We appreciate the speed in which the school district and our health department came together to respond to these cases," said Dr. Kelli Wells, Director of the Florida Department of Health in Duval County. "These initial steps are an important part of the public health process to ensure the health and safety of the students and staff of Andrew Jackson Senior High."

"We have been pleased with the diligence and responsiveness of the Health Department in this investigation," said Nikolai P. Vitti, Superintendent, Duval County Public Schools. "We will follow all of the procedures and protocols they identify to contribute to the well-being of our students and staff."

TB is a disease caused by germs spread from person to person in close contact through the air. TB germs are put in the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings. Persons who breathe in the air containing TB germs can become infected.

TB usually affects the lungs, yet may also affect other parts of the body. Symptoms of TB disease include feelings of sickness or weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats. Symptoms of TB disease of the lungs also include coughing, chest pain, and coughing up blood.

TB is diagnosed by a skin test or blood test, administered by your health care provider or local health department. A positive test usually means the person has been infected with the TB germ, however, it does not necessarily mean the person has active TB disease. Additional tests, such as an x-ray or sputum sample are needed to determine if the person has active TB disease. TB can be easily cured through proper medical treatment.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/tuberculosis/tb-faqs.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/tb/>

###

**Florida Department of Health in Duval County**

Communications &amp; Community Engagement

900 University Boulevard, North, MC-40 • Jacksonville, FL 32211

PHONE: 904/253-1470 • FAX 904/253-2428 [www.dchd.net](http://www.dchd.net)**[www.FloridasHealth.com](http://www.FloridasHealth.com)**

TWITTER: HealthyFLA

FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth

YOUTUBE: fldoh