



# TUBERCULOSIS OUTBREAK UPDATE

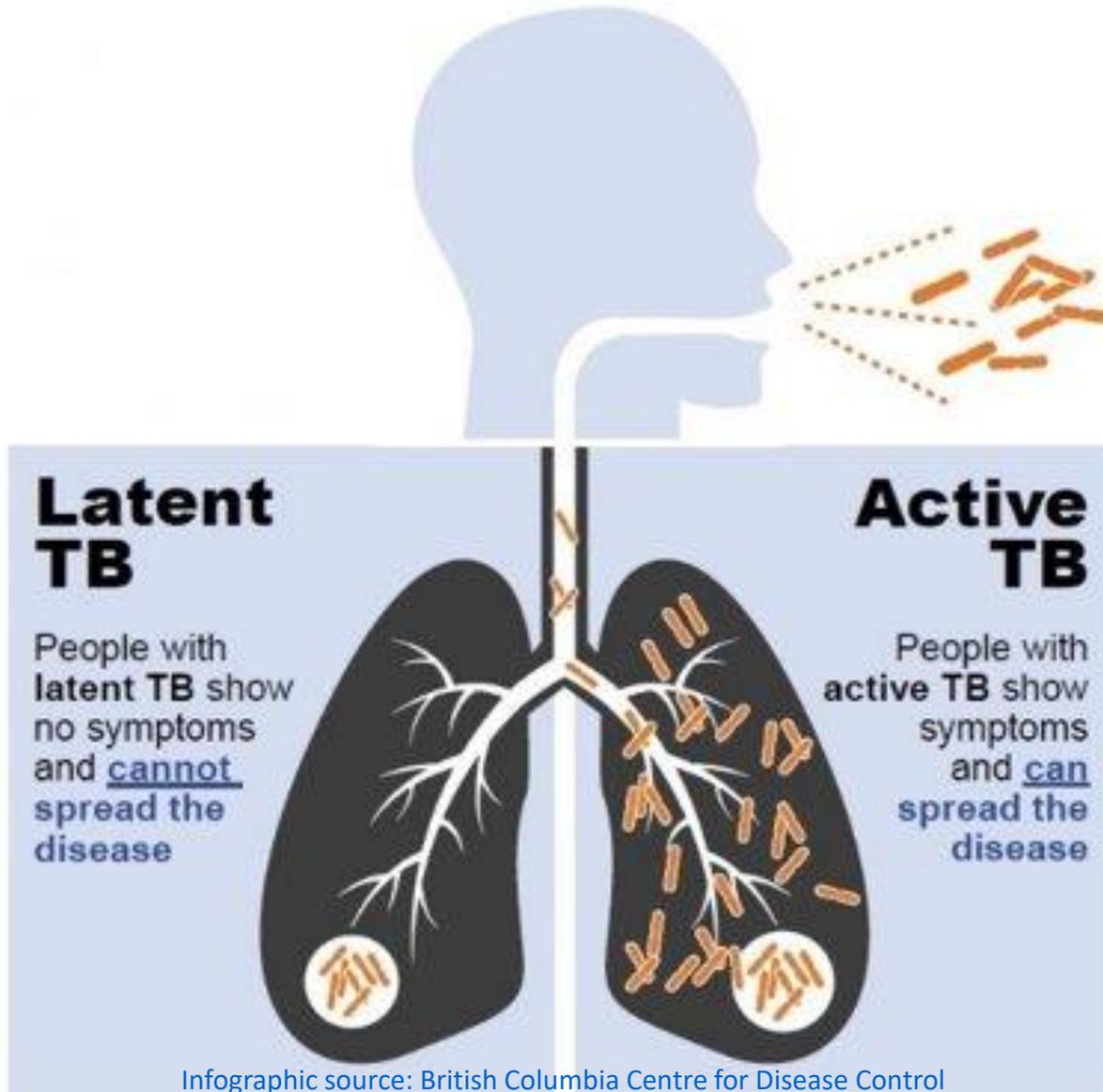
March 2, 2026

San Francisco Department of Public Health



**POPULATION HEALTH DIVISION**  
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

# Active versus Latent Tuberculosis



TB: infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

- Usually affects the lungs
- Transmitted person-to-person via aerosols
- Top global infectious killer, 10% case mortality in SF
- You can harbor latent TB for months or years without symptoms
  - Latent TB diagnosis requires a blood or skin test and chest X-ray at minimum
  - 5-10% will go on to develop active TB disease
  - TB disease preventable at this stage with treatment for 3-6 months



# Outbreak Timeline

- **September 2025:**
  - First case evaluated by a medical provider, reports 2 weeks of cough.
  - Patient is from Archbishop Riordan High School (ARHS) community (approx. 1200 students and 200 staff).
- **November 2025:**
  - First case comes to SFDPH for evaluation, SFDPH makes diagnosis of active TB, and starts patient on treatment.
  - Contact investigation initiated.
  - First active TB case at ARHS is announced and first school townhall 11/19/26.
- **December 2025:**
  - As contact investigation indicates high prevalence of latent TB, SFDPH and ARHS notify school community of required TB testing for all ARHS students and staff beyond immediate contacts.
- **January 2026:**
  - Second and third confirmed active TB cases announced. Second school townhall on 1/21/26.
  - SFDPH issues Health Advisory for clinicians to better educate about TB evaluation and treatment.



# Outbreak Timeline

- **February 2026:**
  - SFDPH holds TB webinar for pediatricians and clinical community with >170 attendees.
  - ARHS has asynchronous/hybrid school days in February to help students complete testing. Required TB testing period ends on Feb 20, 2026.
  - February 23, 2026: Fourth active TB case confirmed.
  - February 24, 2026: Third school townhall conducted as planned.



# TB Testing Results Summary as of February 24, 2026

- A total of 1359 (96%) individuals' test results have been reviewed and validated by SFDPH
  - 227 (17%) people have tested positive
    - 207 of these have been confirmed as latent TB
  - 4 confirmed active TB cases diagnosed
  - 3 suspected active TB cases diagnosed



# Summary and Next Steps

- TB outbreak is stable at this time, risk to the general community is low
- Ongoing contact investigation around all confirmed active TB cases is key to reducing transmission as is surveillance for latent cases that need treatment among ARHS school community
- Essential to ensure treatment initiation and completion for all active TB and latent TB cases to continue to further reduce transmission
- This spring, DPH will lead repeat symptom screening and testing of entire school community on-campus to determine if there any further cases and monitor outbreak
- Continued communication with medical providers, school and larger community is essential



# Thank you!

ARHS leadership and school community

ARHS families

SF Clinical community, especially pediatricians

TB clinic and DPH staff

