



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MEDIA ADVISORY: July 28, 2004

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RE: TB case identified at State Penitentiary

The South Dakota Department of Health has confirmed a case of active tuberculosis (TB) in an inmate at the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls . The patient is in isolation at a local hospital. Staff and inmates who had contact with the individual are being notified and offered free tuberculosis skin testing. Educational sessions about the disease are also being provided.

TB is an airborne disease transmitted person to person through the air. TB is not highly communicable and prolonged exposure to an infectious person is necessary for transmission to occur. A positive skin test means that an individual has been exposed to TB and has the bacteria in his or her body. It does NOT mean the person has tuberculosis disease. If a skin test is positive, preventive medicine is available to keep TB disease from developing.

Approximately 20 cases of TB are identified and investigated in South Dakota each year.

Additional information about TB is available on the department web site at www.state.sd.us/doh/tb.