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Celebrating World TB Day and Recognizing the Hard Work of Our Partners To Move Towards TB Elimination!


Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Thank you all for your dedication and hard work over the many years as we come together to observe World TB Day 2024. Annually, March 24th commemorates Dr. Robert Koch's discovery in 1882 of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and the start of the myriad discoveries that has allowed us to combat this deadly disease. I would like start by recognizing the dedication and passion of Laurie Crider who many of you worked with over the past decade. Laurie is our now retired TB Nurse Program Manager of TB Client Services and TB Controller who is dearly missed but undoubtedly enjoying retired life. She left big shoes to fill of which I am only filling half as the new TB Controller for Contra Costa County. I would like to thank both Alvin Silva and Nicole "Nicki" Brito who wear other hats for Contra Costa Health but have graciously stepped in as interim nurse program managers as we hope to fill this role on a permanent basis soon. Laurie left us a well-oiled TB Client Services Program for us to take over and with the help of her detailed notes, dedicated Public Health Nurses (PHN) and all-knowing admin staff (shout out to Stacy Lee who is the backbone of our program) we have somehow managed to keep the ship afloat. Congratulations Laurie on your retirement and all the best in the next chapter!

Moving on to TB in 2023, we are faced with the grim reality that cases increased not just in Contra Costa County but across the state and nation as well. Please see our [World TB Day Flyer](#) for data on these trends. Contra Costa has not seen these number of cases and rates since 2008 and forces us to take pause as to why? Measures to control the COVID19 pandemic might have provided a temporary reprieve but the lack of access to healthcare during these times has now led to delayed diagnosis for TB and sicker patients. More of our patients require a 39-week regimen due to having more advanced disease. More of our patients are dying from TB than in prior years. We have also been unable to realize the full potential of having a shorter option for treating drug-susceptible TB with the 4-month Moxifloxacin-Rifapentine regimen due to drug shortages.

Despite this, I remain hopeful that we will get back on track and see a reversal of these trends. I hope the powers that be understand how vital a well-staffed and high functioning TB program is for public safety. Myself and TB Client Services staff are here to help and provide guidance. Please reach out as we work together to end TB in Contra Costa.

Sincerely,



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Name
Title
Program Program