



For Immediate Release

April 29, 2010

### **Suspected Case of Tuberculosis in McDonough County**

The McDonough County Health Department has received information regarding a suspected case of tuberculosis in McDonough County and is actively investigating the report.

#### **What is Tuberculosis or TB?**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "TB" is short for tuberculosis. TB disease is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The bacteria usually attack the lungs, but TB bacteria can attack any part of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain. If not treated properly, TB disease can be fatal.

#### **How is TB Spread?**

TB is spread through the air from one person to another. The TB bacteria are put into the air when a person with active TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria and become infected.

#### **TB is NOT spread by**

- shaking someone's hand
- sharing food or drink
- touching bed linens or toilet seats
- sharing toothbrushes
- kissing

TB is usually spread through prolonged/ frequent exposure and is not highly infectious to the general public through infrequent or random interaction.

#### **What is the McDonough County Health Department doing?**

The McDonough County Health Department is aware of the report and is conducting an extensive investigation in relation to the suspected case. Investigations often include

close and frequent contacts such as family members, close friends, and co-workers. Through the investigation the health department will identify people who need testing and will contact them directly.

**Should I be tested for TB?**

At this time, only individuals who are identified through the health department's investigation need testing. Should this change, the health department will notify the public.

**Where can I get more information?**

For more information, check out the McDonough County Health Department's website at [.mchdept.](#)

The McDonough County Health Department is located at 505 E. Jackson St. in Macomb. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For additional questions please call (309) 837-9951 ext. 208.