



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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TB contact investigation conducted at Limestone Correctional Facility

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Following reports of a suspected tuberculosis case in the HIV unit at Limestone Correctional Facility, a multi-disciplinary team began a TB contact investigation on Jan.12, 2004. This team is comprised of staff from the Alabama Department of Public Health, Prison Health Services and the Alabama Department of Corrections.

A total of 300 persons (inmates and staff) potentially exposed or at risk for exposure have been identified and appropriately evaluated. The team remains engaged and follow-up evaluations will be conducted according to protocol. Treatment, if indicated, will be closely monitored to ensure that all will receive the highest standard of care.

Preliminary results of the investigation indicate that transmission of the TB bacteria is limited to a small number (11) of the at-risk population. Every precaution is being taken at this time to prevent the development of additional cases among the exposed inmates and staff.

TB is both treatable and preventable. Persons having questions regarding TB infection or disease are asked to please contact the Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of TB Control, at (334) 206-5330.

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