



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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ADPH offers tuberculin skin tests to airline passengers who may have been exposed to TB on two trans-Atlantic flights in May

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alabama Department of Public Health has received a health alert from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC alert is to advise the traveling public of the potential exposure to extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis on two international flights - (1) Air France #385 from Atlanta to Paris on May 12 and (2) Czech Air #0104 from Prague to Montreal on May 24.

Although the risk of transmission is low, the ADPH will offer free tuberculin skin tests to passengers on these flights as a precautionary measure. The CDC recommends a baseline test at this time and if the result is negative, a follow-up tuberculin skin test after 8 to 10 weeks. Please contact your local health department or your physician for the test.

TB is an airborne infection that is transmitted when a person with active TB disease coughs the TB germ into the air. Other persons in close proximity to the person with TB disease may "breathe in" those germs and become infected.

For further information regarding TB, please contact your local health department or the Division of TB Control at (334) 206-5330. If you have access to the Internet, additional information can be found at www.adph.org/tb.