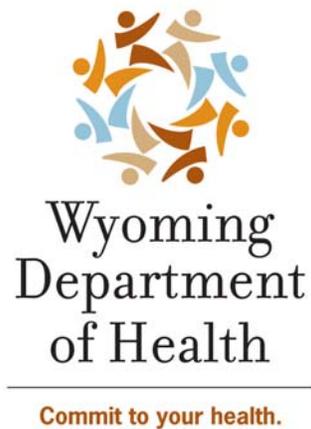


Tuberculosis Outbreak Response Plan



Wyoming Department of Health

Tuberculosis Program

November 2008

Response to a TB Outbreak Situation:

The tuberculosis outbreak response plan (TB ORP) is intended to ensure adequate and timely response to TB outbreaks in the State of Wyoming. The TB ORP provides for evaluation and management of potential transmission of active TB to ensure residents of the state of Wyoming are not exposed to, or have the least amount of exposure to, active cases of TB.

Definition

In Wyoming, two or more related cases of active TB may constitute an outbreak situation. Other factors may be included in defining a TB outbreak, including any of the following:

- An increase in cases above the expected number of TB cases for Wyoming
- Two or more contacts to the same active case are identified as having TB disease
- Two or more cases are discovered to be epi-linked, within one year of each other
- A genotype cluster is discovered in which Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) testing cannot rule out a match
- Transmission continues despite control efforts made by the TB program

All possible outbreaks must be confirmed by the State TB Program manager after consultation with the State Epidemiologist, and should be confirmed on a case by case basis.

Notification of a Tuberculosis Outbreak

The TB Program Manager will be notified by the identifying agency of any possible TB outbreak. Identification of a TB outbreak can occur at several levels including:

Surveillance/ Contact Investigation:

- State TB Program
- Public Health Nurses
- County Health Officers
- State Epidemiologist
- Disease Intervention Specialists

Laboratory:

- Wyoming Public Health Laboratory
- National Jewish Center Tuberculosis Laboratory
- California State Public Health Laboratory (genotyping)

Surrounding Areas:

- TB Program Managers from adjacent states
- Epidemiologists from adjacent states
- Regional Genotyping Coordinator (Utah)

Upon notification of a TB outbreak, the TB Program Manager will consult with the State Epidemiologist and a determination of the need to notify the Division of TB Elimination at CDC will be made. The need to notify and enlist the help of additional WDH staff will also be determined.

Initiating the Outbreak Response

The State TB Program Manager in coordination with the State Epidemiologist is responsible for declaring the TB outbreak and initiating the ORP. The decision to declare an outbreak and initiate the ORP will be based on the criteria for a TB outbreak, as well as on circumstances for individual cases.

Goals of Outbreak Response

The goals of the outbreak response are to:

- Identify all TB cases related to the outbreak
- Initiate Contact Investigation in a timely fashion
- Identify infected persons for medical evaluation, follow-up, and completion of preventive therapy

Available Resources

In the event of a TB outbreak, the following resources can be utilized as needed, depending on the extent and potential for the outbreak. The purpose of these resources is to help control the TB outbreak and prevent the further spread of TB infection in a timely manner. The State TB Program Manager, and any individuals that are directly allocated by the program manager, are responsible for contacting additional resources as required.

- The State TB Program: (307) 777-5658
- The State Epidemiologist: (307) 777-7716
- The State Health Officer: (307) 777-7643
- The State Public Health Laboratory: (307) 777-6066
- The County Health Officer (from the affected and/or surrounding counties)
- The Communicable Disease Section Chief: (307) 777- 7529
- The Regional Disease Intervention Specialist
 - Southeast Region: (307) 777- 8939
 - Southwest and Central Region: (307) 777- 2434
 - Northeast Region: (307) 777- 3562
- The Public Health Nurses (at both the County and/or State level)
- The State Public Information Officer (PIO): (307) 777- 6420

If necessary, several outside resources may be utilized as well, including:

- Division of Tuberculosis Elimination at CDC
- National Jewish Center Tuberculosis Laboratory
- Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center
- Tuberculosis Program Managers in other states

It is the State TB Program Manager's duty to ensure that all necessary resources are contacted in a timely manner, and that all state health officials are aware of a TB outbreak.

Responsibilities of Resource Personnel

The State TB Program Manager

The State TB Program Manager is responsible for oversight and coordination of the outbreak response in coordination with guidance from the State Epidemiologist. Duties of this individual include:

- Reviewing possible outbreaks
- Making the decision to initiate TB ORP
- Recommending response effort needed to control spread of TB
- Contacting resources
- Providing clinical and public health guidance
- Reviewing reports, publications and documents related to TB response efforts prior to use or distribution
- Convening resource individuals for evaluation of outbreak response
- Maintaining communication with the State Health Officer and the State Epidemiologist
- Coordinating internal communications including provider alerts and advisories with the Public Information Officer (PIO)
- Tracking contacts, if needed, with the network of State TB Controllers across the country
- Determining additional financial resources needed to control the outbreak

The State Epidemiologist

The State Epidemiologist must be contacted during any TB outbreak. The State Epidemiologist is the state official responsible for:

- Requesting assistance from the CDC (if not contacted by the State TB Control Program Manager)
- Requesting assistance from the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) as needed
- Providing guidance for data management of TB cases and contacts
- Ensuring quality of surveillance and genotyping data
- Preparing communications and reports relating to the TB outbreak response

- Maintaining communication with the State TB Program Manager

The State Health Officer

The State Health Officer has the authority and responsibility for ensuring that the health of communities in Wyoming is assured and that the greater health of all citizens of Wyoming is protected. This person's responsibilities include:

- Delegating public health authority as necessary; for example, initiating quarantine conditions for controlling communicable diseases including TB. This includes WDH employees and County Health Officers
- Providing medical consultation
- Enabling the dispensing of TB medications and diagnostic materials
- Maintaining communication with the State TB Program Manager

The State of Wyoming Public Health Laboratory

The State of Wyoming Public Health Laboratory is the only public testing facility within the state of Wyoming to determine TB status. The responsibilities of the Public Health Laboratory include:

- Conducting acid fast smear and culture testing
- Sending isolates for genotyping (as necessary)
- Reporting test results to the State TB Program Manager
- Maintaining communication with TB Program Manager on pending cases

The County Health Officer (of the affected area)

The County Health Officer of the affected region will be more directly involved in the investigation and case management, which may include several duties, including:

- Notifying the State TB Program Manager of possible outbreak
- Informs the State Health Officer of any outbreaks
- Making decision to request assistance from State to contain outbreak
- Providing clinical and public health guidance
- Reviewing reports, publications and other documents related to the response prior to use or distribution
- Maintaining communication with the State TB Program Manager
- May serve as media spokesperson

The Regional Disease Intervention Specialist

The duty of the regional disease intervention specialist is to assist public health officials in their regions to help them in performing their duties correctly and in a timely manner. This is done by:

- Ensuring quality of ongoing surveillance
- Providing recommendations to local public health officials on case management and contact investigation

- Assisting the county health officer and public health nurses with contact investigation
- Preparing communications and written reports relating to the outbreak response
- Maintaining communication with the State TB Program Manager

The Public Health Nurse(s) (of the affected area)

The Public Health Nurse may be the primary contact with the infected individual and in most situations will have a direct role in the investigation of TB cases. Public Health Nurses will provide communication within the community that can not be easily carried out by higher officials. All Public Health Nurses have a responsibility to contact the State TB Program Manager in the event of a possible or actual TB case/outbreak. In the event of a case/ outbreak, local Public Health Nursing will have a significant role in detection and preventing the spread of TB. Public Health Nursing responsibilities may include, but are not exclusive to:

- Reporting suspected and confirmed TB cases to the State TB Program.
- Contact investigation (including identifying, interviewing and evaluating contacts).
- Screening and Surveillance (initial and follow-up tests).
- Case Management (locating a physician, assisting with x-rays, ordering and supplying meds).
- Clinical Support (providing D.O.T., arranging follow-up clinic visits, monitoring medication).
- Report data to the State TB Program Manager for cases and contacts.
- Establish patient charts and record keeping including laboratory reports, x-ray reports, contact information, PPD results, bio-data, etc.
- Provide PPD skin testing for contacts and based on the result, determine the need (eligibility) for treatment and/or prophylaxis.
- Ensuring safe treatment for all persons affected.
- Serve as a liaison to community providers and state and local health officials.
- Prepare with consultation, communications and reports regarding the outbreak response
- Maintain communication with the State TB Program Manager.

Follow-up and Monitoring of Reported TB Outbreak

The State TB Program Manager will work with all individuals and resources involved with case management activities for cases of TB involved in the outbreak. It is the State TB Program Manager's duty to ensure that all intervention activities and prevention efforts are occurring in a timely manner and that possible linking of cases is not over-looked. The TB Program Manager will provide weekly updates to the State Epidemiologist and the Preventive Health and Safety Division (PHSD) Administration during the response efforts. If necessary, the State TB Program Manager will schedule additional meetings with resource personnel and determine if additional resources are needed.

Community Partnerships

In efforts to control TB outbreaks, it is important that the State TB Control Program has access to other public health staff, community providers and laboratory professionals in the area. Partnerships with community groups are essential in outreach efforts to find those who may have been exposed to active TB in the event of an outbreak. It is important that all efforts are made when initiating Contact Investigations and that partnerships are forged to ward-off potential problems such as language barriers, transportation and other barriers which may prevent contacts from reaching proper healthcare. Potential partnerships that the Wyoming TB Control Program may hold include: cultural and ethnic organizations, Indian Health Services on the Wind River Reservation, community clinics, health care providers, hospitals, corrections facilities, State facilities, advocacy groups, HIV testing programs, substance abuse programs, and professional societies.

Relating to the Media during an Outbreak

Communication with the media should be coordinated with the State Health Department; specifically, the State Epidemiologist, the TB Program Manager and the Public Information Officer before the release of any information. Where the outbreak involves only one county, and where that County Health Department has sufficient staff to effectively communicate with the media, release of information may flow through the County Health Department and its County Health Officer. Where the outbreak involves more than one county or state, or when the County Health Office does not have sufficient staff to coordinate this effort, communication with the media should be conducted at the State level under the direction of the State Epidemiologist and Public Information Officer.

The State Health Officer should always be kept informed, as necessary, as the outbreak response proceeds. The TB Program Manager will keep members of the Preventive Health and Safety Division Administration apprised of the status of the outbreak and our response to the outbreak.

Evaluation and De-Activation of TB Outbreak Response Plan

ORP de-activation procedures will be conducted only when the situation no longer supports the need for extensive response activities. A debriefing must be conducted by the TB Program Manager to ensure that all personnel involved in the response efforts are equally informed. A change of command follows the debriefing, in that the local public health facilities and authorities (i.e. the Public Health Nurses and the County Health Officer) can control the situation and continued investigation without further direct intervention from the State of Wyoming. An exit interview with the local public health agency initiating the response and others involved will be conducted by the TB Program Manager and/or State Epidemiologist to review response efforts and outcomes and to collect any additional information. The final task to close the TB ORP is a summary report written by the TB Program Manager. The summary report shall be presented to the Preventive Health and Safety Division Administration, and others as determined by the situation.