



Public Health
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From: Kansas City, Missouri Health Department
KCHD HAN Number: KC 002-07
Date: 02/05/2007
Subject: **Active Tuberculosis (TB) Cases Found at a KCMO Homeless Shelter**

Current Situation

The Kansas City, Missouri Health Department is currently managing contact investigations surrounding 2 active tuberculosis cases that stayed at the same KCMO homeless shelter. Case finding and screening has begun in the homeless shelter. Disease Surveillance will continue to monitor this situation to determine if any other active TB cases arise from this shelter.

Recommendations for Assessing TB in Homeless Patients

- Confirmed or suspected TB in a homeless person should be immediately reported to the health department so that a treatment plan can be decided upon and potentially exposed persons located and examined
- TB should be suspected in any homeless person with a fever and a productive cough of more than 1-3 weeks' duration, and appropriate diagnostic studies should be undertaken
- If TB is suspected, a chest x-ray should be done and the patient should be immediately placed in Respiratory/AFB isolation
- If possible, sputum samples should be collected and tested for the presence of AFB organisms
- Other symptoms of TB may also be present and may include: hemoptysis, chills, night sweats and unexplained weight loss
- Patients with TB should be counseled and voluntarily tested for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection because TB treatment recommendations are different for HIV-seropositive and HIV-seronegative persons (1). TB therapy should be directly observed whenever possible