

TB+Leprosy Free Majuro

March 16, 2018

To the TB Community,

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Department of Health will soon begin an island-wide TB screening and treatment project. The goal is to identify, evaluate and treat both active and latent TB infection (LTBI) cases among adults and children living on Majuro Island. The 24-week project will take place between June and September this year, with follow-up and treatment teams continuing to work until November 16, 2018.

This is quite an ambitious effort! We plan to screen more than 26,000 people to diagnose and treat TB in the Majuro community. The published rate of TB disease in Majuro is well over 300/100,000 – however, our work in neighboring Ebeye Island last year demonstrated a rate of nearly 800/100,000 among adults, increasing to 2,400/100,000 among adults with poorly controlled diabetes. In addition to finding and treating active TB, we will be testing (TST) and treating (3HP) all residents with LTBI. For children under age 2 years, we will use the 9H regimen for preventive therapy. Because of our experience in Ebeye, we will also add Hansen’s Disease (HD) screening for all, and diabetes screening for adults found to have active TB, LTBI, or HD. For new TB cases that are infectious, we will also include a household contact investigation to ensure TB screening and TB prevention to exposed household members.

We are again seeking volunteer professionals to help us for this effort. We welcome trained individuals with significant TB experience who are willing to volunteer their time and energy for this innovative, large-scale project. These volunteers should be a mix of clinicians, nurses, lab techs, x-ray techs, and epi/data support. The RMI government, with approval from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the assistance of the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA), is offering to pay round-trip airfare (U.S. carriers), hotel (modest, but clean), and per diem for selected volunteers. Each volunteer is expected to provide at least three (3) weeks of high-intensity time to the 24-week project. No salary or honorarium will be paid.

This will be a unique “hands-on” effort integrating multi-disciplinary teams of experienced volunteers from the U.S. mainland, TB programs of the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands, Department of Defense (DoD) staff, WHO staff, Pacific regional TB experts, and current Ebeye and Majuro TB program staff. The activities of volunteer staff will be equally divided between active TB case-finding, TB prevention, and working with the local TB program to provide further work-up, DOT, contact tracing, and DOPT when indicated. We will need 10 to 15 volunteers for each of the 3-week sessions.

The 3-week sessions in Majuro are scheduled as follows:

Group:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Arrive:	Sat, 6/2	Thu, 6/21	Thu, 7/12	Thu, 8/2	Thu, 8/23	Thu, 9/13	Thu, 10/4	Thu, 10/25
Depart:	Fri, 6/22	Fri, 7/13	Fri, 8/3	Fri, 8/24	Fri, 9/14	Fri, 10/5	Fri, 10/26	Fri, 11/16

We invite you to join us for an introductory webinar about the project:

Tues, March 27, 2017, 3pm EST / 2pm CST / 1pm MST / 12pm PST <https://zoom.us/j/791601888>

Please consider this opportunity to help advance TB control in the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands!

Sincerely,

Dick Brostrom, MD, MSPH
CDC TB Field Medical Officer, Pacific Islands
External Coordinator, TB+Leprosy Free Majuro

Jon Warkentin, MD, MPH
Med. Dir., Tennessee TB Elimination Program
Asst. Coordinator, TB Screening in Majuro

TB+Leprosy Free Majuro

Volunteer Positions

Position	Active/Inactive	Brief Description	Sat, Jun 2 Fri, Jun 22	Thu, Jun 21 Fri, Jul 13	Thu, Jul 12 Fri, Aug 3	Thu, Aug 2 Fri, Aug 24	Thu, Aug 23 Fri, Sep 14	Thu, Sep 13 Fri, Oct 5	Thu, Oct 4 Fri, Oct 26	Thu, Oct 25 Fri, Nov 16
			Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
Nurse	Active	Sputum Glu/A1C, Help x-ray								
Nurse	Active	Sputum Glu/A1C, Help x-ray								
X-ray Tech	Active	Position/X-ray								
Physician	Active	Read CXR/HD/req sputum								
Physician	Active	Read CXR/HD/req sputum								
Epi	Active	Records/Sputum/Data								
Epi	Active	Records/Sputum/Data								
Nurse	Active	Manage C.i. Staff								
Nurse	Active	Manage DOT Staff								
MD/Nurse	Active	Manage TB clinic cases								
Nurse	Latent	Place/Read PPD/Start 3HP						Both		
Nurse	Latent	Place/Read PPD/Start 3HP						Both		
MD/Nurse/Epi	Latent	Supervise Latent Treatment								
Nurse	Latent	Place/Read PPD/Start 3HP						Both		
Nurse	Latent	Place/Read PPD/Start 3HP						Both		
MD/Nurse/Epi	Latent	Supervise Latent Treatment								