



Daniel L. Lurie
Mayor

December 9, 2025

Dear staff, students and families,

We are writing with an update regarding the November 17, 2025 notification of a Tuberculosis (TB) exposure at **Archbishop Riordan High School**.

TB is an infectious disease caused by bacteria that can be spread through the air when a person with active TB in their lungs coughs, speaks, or breathes near others over an extended period of time. A person with active TB disease can spread TB germs through the air to those who frequently share the same air. The most common way to become infected with TB germs is by spending a lot of time with a person who has active TB. **Rarely it is spread to people who spend a small amount of time with an active case of TB.**

The health and safety of students, staff and their families is our top priority. Archbishop Riordan High School continues to work closely with the San Francisco Department of Public Health to notify students and staff who may have been significantly exposed to this case of active TB.

TB Contact Investigation Outcome to date:

- No additional cases of active (infectious) TB disease have been identified to date
- However, results of TB testing of over 100 identified close contacts indicates **extensive TB transmission** with a high rate of non-contagious latent (inactive) TB infection among close contacts.
- Due to the extensive transmission among identified close contacts, the San Francisco Department of Public Health now recommends expansion of TB testing to include people who may have had limited indoor exposure to TB on campus.

Required Actions: Students and staff who have spent at least 8 hours in indoor spaces on campus fall semester 2025 prior to November 10, 2025 must:

1. **Get evaluated for TB by your medical provider 10 weeks after the last exposure - test during this period: 1/20/2026 - 2/13/2026.**
 - a. You may get tested right away if you wish. However because the TB test may take up to 10 weeks to turn positive after exposure, if your initial TB test is negative, you will need to repeat testing 10 weeks after exposure (on or after 01/20/2026).

Note: If you have immune suppression (on chemotherapy, steroids or other medications that weaken immune response, have HIV or an organ transplant): test right away, and repeat test after 01/20/2026.

2. **Have your medical provider complete the form on pages 3-4. Submit it to Archbishop Riordan High School: HealthInfo@riordanhs.org or turn it in at the Front Desk.**

If you do not have a medical provider, or are having difficulty accessing TB testing, please contact your county department of public health TB program to be connected with TB services:

San Francisco residents: DCIteamactivities@sfdph.org or 628-206-3398

San Mateo County residents: LGalindo@smcgov.org or 650-474-1630

Residents of other counties: you may reach out to your county department of public health or to the San Francisco TB Branch (DCIteamactivities@sfdph.org or 628-206-3398) to be connected with your county TB resource.

We understand this news may cause concern. It may be helpful to know the following:

- **TB is not easily spread.** It typically requires prolonged, close indoor contact with someone who has active TB disease in their lungs. The extent of TB spread found during this exposure investigation is more extensive than usual, prompting this follow-up notification out of an abundance of caution.
- **Being exposed to TB does not mean a person can spread TB to others.** Only individuals who are sick with active TB affecting their lungs can transmit the bacteria.
- **TB is treatable and curable.** Anyone who needs medical evaluation or care will receive appropriate follow-up.
- If you have symptoms of TB such as a **persistent** cough lasting >3 weeks, or other persistent symptoms of fever, fatigue, decreased appetite or unintentional weight loss:
 - Stay home from school
 - Seek medical care as you normally would, and bring this exposure notification to your medical provider: **a TB test (skin test or blood test) alone is not sufficient for people with symptoms. A full medical evaluation is needed, which may include a chest X-ray and other studies.**
 - Your medical provider will determine the appropriate evaluation and advise when it is safe to return to school.

We know that situations like this can create stress or uncertainty. Please be assured that the health and safety of our students, staff, and families remain our highest priority. We are committed to transparency, care, and ongoing communication, and we appreciate your cooperation as we work through this process together.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership in keeping our community healthy.

Sincerely,



Susannah Graves, MD, MPH
Director, Tuberculosis Branch
San Francisco Department of Public Health



Timothy Reardon
President
Archbishop Riordan High School

Information for Health Care Providers – TB Exposure, Testing, and Referrals

TB evaluation is required for all students and staff who spent at least 8 hours in indoor spaces on campus at Archbishop Riordan High School during Fall 2025 semester prior to November 10, 2025.

In addition to the above epidemiologic TB exposure risk factor, please note whether the exposed individual has other epidemiologic or medical risk factors for progression to TB disease:

- Immunosuppression, current or planned (examples include HIV infection, organ transplant recipient, TNF-alpha antagonist, steroids, or other immunosuppressive medication)
- Birth, travel, or residence in a country with an elevated TB rate (includes any country other than the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or a country in western or northern Europe)
- Have a family member or contact with a history of confirmed or suspected TB

The TB symptom review consists of an assessment of:

- Cough > 3 weeks
- Coughing up blood
- Fever
- Unintentional weight loss or concerns about appropriate growth and development
- Night sweats

If the TB test is positive or the patient has one or more symptoms suggesting active TB disease, a chest X-ray should be obtained.

Document outcome of the evaluation on the school health record on page 4 below.

Any students or staff of Archbishop Riordan High School with probable **active TB disease based on symptoms and compatible imaging** should be reported to the local health department of their county of residence within one working day. Clearance to return to school must be obtained from both the San Francisco TB Clinic at Ward 94, SF General Hospital (628-206-8524) as well as their home jurisdiction prior to returning.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION BELOW

Submit to Archbishop Riordan High School via email: HealthInfo@riordanhs.org or turn it in at the Front Desk

Required TB Evaluation – mark a response for ALL items 1-4 below:

1. TB Symptom Review: TB symptoms present No TB symptoms

2. TB Test performed between 01/20/2026 - 02/13/2026 (TB blood test is strongly preferred)

(If patient has a documented prior **positive** TB blood test, note specific results below a symptom review and chest Xray is required)

Date: _____

Test type: TB Blood Test TB Skin test, Induration: _____ mm

Interpretation: Positive Negative

3. Xray imaging: indicated for any positive TB test or symptoms of TB:

CXR: Required for all individuals with a positive TB test or a positive TB symptom review

CXR not indicated CXR indicated, result summary below:

Date: _____ Radiologist read: No evidence of TB Abnormal, further TB evaluation needed

4. Treatment:

Treatment prescribed: medication and duration: _____

Treatment not prescribed

Health Care Provider name and practice address and contact information (ok to use stamp):

Health Care Provider Signature _____ Date _____

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