

AN OPEN LETTER TO STUDENTS, PARENTS AND STAFF OF REYNOLDS LEARNING ACADEMY

DATE: February 15, 2018

FROM: Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH, Deputy Health Officer, Multnomah County Health Department and Linda Florence, Ed.D., Superintendent, Reynolds School District

Dear students, parents, and staff:

In our effort to keep you informed, we want you to be aware that someone who has spent time at Reynolds Learning Academy was recently found to have tuberculosis (TB) of the lung. This means some students and staff may have been exposed to the germ that causes TB. This person is not at the school right now and confidentiality laws prohibit us from releasing any identifying information.

TB is caused by a bacteria. It is spread through the air from one person to another when someone who is sick with TB coughs, talks, or sings. It usually takes many hours of close, face-to-face contact to become infected. Most people who have been exposed to TB never become sick. People can be easily tested for TB by a safe and simple skin or blood test. TB can be cured and prevented with antibiotics.

Only certain individuals at Reynolds Learning Academy who have been identified by the health department need to be tested for TB. If you need testing, you will get another letter today telling you what to do. If you do not get another letter today, you are at very low risk of exposure and do not need to do anything at this time.

Our top priority is the health and safety of our students, families, and staff. We want to provide you with as much information as possible to understand TB. We have invited **Dr. Jennifer Vines from Multnomah County Health Department to provide information and answer questions on Tuesday, February 20, at 6:00 pm in the Reynolds Learning Academy Commons Area**, 20234 NE Halsey Street, Fairview, OR 97024. All are welcome to attend this information session.

For more immediate information about TB, please review the included fact sheet or visit: www.cdc.gov/tb. If you have questions about the information in this letter, please call Multnomah County Health Department Tuberculosis Clinic at (503) 988-3406.

Thank you,

Dr. Linda Florence
Superintendent
Reynolds School District

Dr. Jennifer Vines
Deputy Health Officer
Multnomah County Health Department

