

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 29, 2025

Contact: Shelby Ostrom
Interim Communications Officer
sostrom@ldchealth.org | 785-843-3060

UPDATE ON TUBERCULOSIS OUTBREAK IN KANSAS

DOUGLAS COUNTY, Kansas (January 29, 2025) – In 2024, both Johnson and Wyandotte Counties experienced a tuberculosis outbreak that is ongoing. At this time, the outbreak has not extended to Lawrence or Douglas County and no active cases have been reported in Douglas County. The risk of contracting tuberculosis for the general public is very low.

A person with an active TB infection is no longer infectious to others shortly after beginning treatment. A person with latent TB (inactive infection) is not infectious and cannot spread germs to others. While anyone can get TB, only those who have repeated, long-term exposure to a person with an active infection are at risk. (i.e. you work, attend school, or live with someone with TB). Once a person is infectious, Tuberculosis is spread through the air from an infectious person to others. The germs are put in the air when a person with an active TB infection of the lungs or throat coughs, speaks, or sings. People who breathe this air may become infected with TB. TB is not spread through touch or walking past someone with an infection.

If you believe you may have been exposed to someone with an active TB infection, contact your primary healthcare provider. More information about this outbreak, and information about TB is available at the following links.

Tuberculosis Outbreak Information: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/2242/Tuberculosis-Outbreak>
Information About Tuberculosis: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/about/index.html>

