



April 30, 2018

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Dear ACPS Parents and Guardians,

In cooperation with the Alexandria Health Department, ACPS wants to make you aware that a person at Patrick Henry Elementary School was recently diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis, more commonly known as TB.

Please be assured that there is no ongoing risk of infection at Patrick Henry Elementary School or any other school from this exposure. The Alexandria Health Department is currently working to identify students and staff who may have spent time in close contact with this person. Those students and staff will be tested for TB infection. The Health Department will be contacting those in need of testing directly. Only those identified by the Health Department will need testing.

TB is treatable and curable. It is a bacterial disease that is spread from person to person through the air. TB germs are put into the air when a person with active TB disease coughs. If another person breathes the air containing the TB germ, he or she may become infected. Not everyone infected with the TB germ becomes sick and/or is contagious to others. Some of the symptoms of active TB disease include a cough lasting more than three weeks, decrease in appetite, weight loss and fatigue.

Thank you for your patience as we resolve this issue. The safety and wellness of our students and staff remains a top priority. **You should feel confident that all schools are safe places for children and staff and continue to send your child to school as usual.**

Sincerely,

Lois F. Berlin
Interim Superintendent
Alexandria City Public Schools

Dr. Stephen Haering, MD, MPH, FACPM
Director of Health
Alexandria Health Department