



September 6, 2018

Dear Jail Administrator:

I am pleased to share with you Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Annual Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Report which is a summary of your facility's 2017 TB screening activities.

TB is a communicable disease caused by a bacteria transmitted through the air from person to person. It can be fatal if not treated properly. Unrecognized and untreated TB may also lead to disease outbreaks impacting the health and wellbeing of unsuspecting persons.

Incarcerated persons are at greater risk of exposure to TB. Correctional facilities have a higher proportion of people with medical conditions such as HIV which weaken the immune system and make persons more susceptible to TB disease. Additionally, correctional facilities' environmental conditions, such as overcrowding and close living quarters increase the risk of TB transmission to others.

TB is preventable and treatable; therefore, implementing the following measures reduce the impact of TB in correctional facilities and ensure a prompt and appropriate response:

- Increase TB awareness among correctional facility staff to recognize TB signs and symptoms;
- Maintain TB screenings requirements upon intake or hire, and annual thereafter;
- Establish and maintain ongoing communication with the local (or regional) health department in your county as they serve as your subject matter expert; and
- Ensure prompt TB reporting.

For questions about the Annual Tuberculosis Screening Report, please contact Raiza Ruiz at (512) 533-3154 or by email at [Raiza.Ruiz@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:Raiza.Ruiz@dshs.state.tx.us).

I look forward to continuing our work together to improve our efforts in preventing and controlling TB in correctional facilities and to the elimination of TB in Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sandra A. Morris".

Sandra A. Morris, MPH  
Manager  
Tuberculosis and Hansen's Disease Branch