

# **COPIAGUE**

## **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**Dr. Kathleen Bannon, Superintendent of Schools**

April 1, 2019

Dear Parent/Student/Staff:

This letter is notification to our entire Copiague Middle School community that the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) has informed me that an individual in the Copiague Middle School community is presently receiving treatment for tuberculosis.

The affected individual is no longer at school; therefore, there is no further risk of transmission.

The Copiague Middle School is partnering with the SCDHS to identify students and staff who may have been in close and prolonged contact with this individual.

Those staff, students and their parents will be notified in a separate letter and further information about recommended testing will be provided.

Even after exposure to a person with infectious tuberculosis disease, most people do not become infected. People who do become infected with tuberculosis are not sick and cannot spread tuberculosis to others. The presence of a tuberculosis infection, which is asymptomatic, can only be detected by testing for tuberculosis infection using tests such as the PPD Mantoux skin test.

If a person has a tuberculosis infection as indicated by a positive PPD Mantoux skin test, they have a 5-10% lifetime risk of developing tuberculosis disease. Tuberculosis infection can be treated by using an anti-tuberculosis medication, which greatly reduces the risk of developing tuberculosis disease by infected people. This is sometimes called preventive treatment.

It is therefore recommended that positive reactors should see their health care providers for a TB medical examination and a chest x-ray. Based on their health care provider's evaluation, such preventive treatment may be offered.

Only individuals who have close and prolonged contact with an infectious person are at risk for contracting tuberculosis. In accordance with accepted public health practice, following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines and in close consultation with the New York State Department of Health, the SCDHS is offering a free PPD Mantoux skin test to screen for tuberculosis infection to people who have been identified in consultation with the

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Copiague Public Schools administration as having had close and prolonged contact with the individual with tuberculosis disease.

If you have not been notified that you/your child was identified as having had close and prolonged contact with the individual with tuberculosis you/your child will not need the screening test. You may discuss your child's situation with their health care provider who may be able to offer advice.

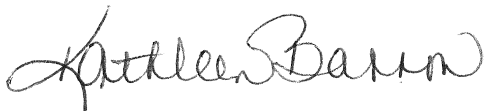
**A general information session will be held on Tuesday 4/2/19 at 6:00 p.m., in the Copiague Middle School auditorium.**

Further information may also be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site: [www.cdc.gov/tb](http://www.cdc.gov/tb).

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact the Suffolk County Department of Health Services at (631) 854-2200 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Confidentiality: Please note that all information related to tuberculosis patients is confidential under New York State Public Health Law. Any information received by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services in connection with this matter will be handled in a confidential manner as required by New York State Public Health Law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Bannon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dr. Kathleen Bannon  
Superintendent of Schools