



# Media Release

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## **Yakima Health District Monitoring Tuberculosis Cases, Risk to Public Remains Low**

**Yakima, WA-** The Yakima Health District (YHD) has identified an increase in tuberculosis (TB) cases in Yakima County. So far in 2025, nine new TB cases have been reported. For comparison, a total of 10 new cases were reported in all of 2024. Currently, 17 cases (including nine new and eight existing cases) are being monitored. While these cases are under close observation, **the risk to the general public remains low.**

To protect patient privacy, YHD is unable to share demographic information due to the small number of cases.

### **Ongoing Public Health Efforts**

The Yakima Health District, in partnership with Indian Health Services and Yakama Tribal Health, are working to:

- Identify and notify individuals who may have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with active TB. Those identified as close contacts will be contacted for testing and further evaluation.
- Provide TB testing and evaluation for those at risk.
- Ensure individuals receive proper treatment to protect both themselves and the community.

### **Tuberculosis**

Tuberculosis is a serious infectious disease that primarily affects the lungs but can also spread to other parts of the body. It is transmitted through the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks. The disease can remain dormant for years as latent TB infection (LTBI), meaning the

person has no symptoms and cannot spread the disease. However, without treatment, TB can become active, leading to severe illness and transmission to others. Treatment for active TB disease can take six to nine months depending on the treatment plan. Symptoms include a cough lasting three weeks or longer, chest pain, coughing up blood or phlegm, weakness or fatigue, weight loss, loss of appetite, chills, fever, or night sweats.

### **Recommendations to the General Public**

The risk to the general public remains low. TB is primarily spread through prolonged, close contact with an infected person in an enclosed setting. Most people do not need to take extra precautions unless they have been identified as a close contact.

Individuals who have concerns about their risk of TB exposure are encouraged to reach out to their primary care provider for more information.

### **Quote**

"The Yakima Health District is actively working with our healthcare partners to contain the spread of tuberculosis and ensure those impacted receive the necessary treatment. While we are monitoring these cases closely, it is important to emphasize that the risk to the general public remains low. Our priority is safeguarding the health of the community through early detection, testing, and treatment." – Melissa Sixberry, Director of Disease Control, Yakima Health District

### **Additional Information:**

[Tuberculosis | CDC](#)

[Signs and Symptoms of Tuberculosis | CDC](#)

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