

August 25, 2004

IN THIS ISSUE TUBERCULOSIS INVESTIGATION	FROM David McKeown, MDCM, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health
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Introduction

A large number of people in Peel Region, primarily in Brampton, have been identified as contacts of an individual with tuberculosis (TB). The circumstances of exposure brought these people into brief close contact with the case. Peel Health has assessed the risk of infection as low but in need of investigation and follow-up. Some of your patients may be calling you for information or follow-up.

Peel Health Actions

Peel Health has identified all 'at-risk' individuals and mailed them a letter. People are being asked to attend one of a number of health department screening and testing clinics that will be held at 10 Peel Centre Drive in Brampton during June and July. We anticipate that most of the affected individuals (children and adults) will be screened in these clinics.

Children under the age of six years will be screened in a clinic, at 10 Peel Centre Drive, that is being conducted in partnership with the Hospital for Sick Children.

With patient consent, Peel Health will arrange follow up specialist medical care for people who screen positive for Tuberculosis. We are taking this approach so that the results of the contact investigation can inform the decision to provide chemoprophylaxis through a small number of physicians familiar with the circumstances of this case. We will ask patient consent to provide their primary care physician with the results of the clinics and any necessary follow up.

How This May Affect You

There may be some individuals who are unable to attend these clinics. In these situations we will be asking the person to contact their physician to arrange for screening and testing if required. In addition some individuals who screen positive for TB infection may prefer to be seen by their family doctor.

Peel Health will provide you with the necessary patient history, Peel Health procedures and documentation forms for these individuals. We are asking you to complete and return to Peel Health a copy of the documentation form once the assessment has been completed. This will provide us with a comprehensive assessment of the exposure.

Letters have been sent to all people who were significantly exposed. If your patient has not been contacted by the health department then they do not require follow-up. If you feel Peel Health missed your patient please call us.

If you have further questions please contact Peel Health through Health Line Peel at 905-799-7700.

Information on TB is also available on our website at peelregion.ca.