



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Make California TB Free: New tools to wipe out tuberculosis**  
**World TB Day 2014 Media Event**

What: World Tuberculosis Day 2014

When: March 26, 2014 10:00-10:30 a.m., with interviews available until 11:00 a.m.

Where: Curry International Tuberculosis Center, 300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 520, Oakland, California 94612-2037

Who:

Pennan Barry, MD, MPH, Surveillance and Epidemiology Chief, Tuberculosis Control Branch, California Department of Public Health

Michael Stacey, MD, MPH, TB Controller and Acting Health Officer, Solano County Public Health Bureau; Incoming President of the California Tuberculosis Controllers Association

Linda Civitello, President and CEO, Breathe California, Golden Gate Public Health Partnership

Representatives from: RESULTS, Curry International Tuberculosis Center, and Tuberculosis Control Programs from the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, and Santa Clara will be available for interviews

Patient Testimonials

New Tool: CTCA Risk Assessment questionnaire – Do you need a TB test? Know your risk by completing the questionnaire.

Demo: Smartphone-based directly observed therapy (San Francisco Department of Public Health in partnership with the University of California San Diego)

The number of TB cases reported in California in 2013 was 2,170. California reports more cases of tuberculosis (TB) than any other state. “We need to change the game plan if we are to free Californians from the threat of TB. Every four hours, a Californian is diagnosed with TB; every other day, a Californian dies with TB, and every week a Californian under the age of 5 is diagnosed with TB. Californians need to know their risks, talk with their health care provider about their risks and get tested and treated if recommended,” said Michael Stacey, incoming President of the California TB Controllers Association.

TB is spread from person to person through the air when a person with active TB coughs and those around them breathe in the bacteria. Some people will live with TB infection without ever developing active TB disease. Others will progress to active TB that can spread from one person to another through the air. Even with treatment, active TB can be deadly; nearly 10% of TB patients in California died with the disease in the last year of record for deaths, 2011.

“People should know their TB status so that if they’re infected, they can be treated early, before they progress to the active form of TB,” said Dr. Muntu Davis, Health Officer of Alameda County. “This is especially true for people who have lived in countries with high rates of TB and for people whose immune systems are weakened from diabetes, severe kidney disease, HIV infection, organ transplant, some cancers, and certain treatments for autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn’s disease.”

“Public health TB programs do the work that no one else can do, because they have special authority to stop transmission of TB in the community,” said Linda Civitello, President and CEO of Breathe California. “Public health programs must have adequate resources to ensure that TB does not spread because people cannot access the health care they need.”

For information about TB, please visit the California Tuberculosis Controllers Association website, [www.ctca.org](http://www.ctca.org).

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