



**Tuberculosis Care and Prevention Specialists Call for  
Community Providers and the State Leadership to Address California’s Epidemic  
*Outbreak in Long Beach underscores the need  
for increased Tuberculosis (TB) prevention efforts***

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May 13, 2024 - The California TB Controllers Association (CTCA), a professional organization of large, medium, small, and rural health jurisdiction TB experts, is making this call to action due to the recent TB outbreak in Long Beach and the increase in active TB cases across the state.

TB kills over 200 Californians per year. The California Department of Public Health TB Control Branch recently reported that persons diagnosed with active TB disease in 2023 increased 15% compared with those diagnosed with TB disease in 2022 and that is an increase of 24% since 2020. TB disease disproportionately impacts the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, Black, and Latinx communities.

Despite these troubling statistics, there is little public attention and funding to adequately address TB, let alone move the state toward eliminating the disease. With such low TB awareness and screening rates in primary care, most opportunities to diagnose and treat TB infection to prevent TB disease are missed, and TB disease can develop and spread.

**QUOTE:**

“The TB outbreak in Long Beach highlights the need for more awareness, support, and funding to change the course of rising infections, save lives, and move California toward eliminating this preventable disease,” said Eva Reeder, PHN, CTCA President-Elect. “CTCA urges our state leaders to provide the funding and leadership needed for local public departments, providers, and community organizations to screen and treat communities at highest risk for TB. We stand ready to partner with the Governor and the Legislature to develop and implement strategies that lead the state to eliminating this disease once and for all.”

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