

## **Tuberculosis/TB still a threat in California**

### **10% of those diagnosed with the disease in California will die** **with this Curable, Preventable, Communicable, Airborne Bacterial Threat**

Though it still surprises people to learn, one third of the world's population is estimated to be living with TB infection, according the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And according to the World Health Organization, TB disease kills more people than any other infectious disease. In California TB remains a serious threat, though short course treatments for TB infection can eliminate this threat.

More than 2 million people are estimated to be infected with TB in California. More than 20% of those diagnosed with TB disease in the U.S. are diagnosed in California each year, and 10% die.

Public health staff, volunteers and advocates around the world and across California work every day to protect communities from TB, taking every opportunity to ask policy leaders and private medical providers to help eliminate the threat of TB. California delegates can join the House TB Caucus. State and local leaders can recommit to ending this threat. Medical professionals can identify those in their care with risks for TB infection and offer new, short course treatments to eliminate the threat of TB disease. Together, we can all be TB Free, California.

(Local Data and Quote Here)

“The only way to prevent the transmission of TB is to find and treat TB disease and TB infection,” said April King Todd, CTCA President. “We need our community providers in California to embrace the diagnosis and treatment of latent TB infection, the form of TB that, if treated, prevents TB infection from progressing to active TB disease.” Public health programs across the state are responsible for maintaining the skilled staff and resources to correctly diagnose and effectively treat TB to prevent additional cases of TB. These resources are necessary to assure communities can support the interventions needed to control the spread of TB.

“TB staff in public health departments across the state are increasingly challenged to piece together the staff, skills and resources to control and prevent this still life threatening disease,” said Breathe California representative, Margo Sidener “It’s time that we have adequate resources for public health programs so that they can partner with community providers to eliminate the threat of TB in California. Screening and treatment of TB infection in high risk groups is a proven effective strategy to keep community members safe from TB.”

TB is spread from person to person through the air when a person with active TB disease coughs, exposing friends, family, and colleagues to the disease. People can become infected when they breathe in TB bacteria. Drug resistant forms of TB develop when people do not take all of their medications.