

March 20, 2008

News media calls to David Hass at (630) 682-7979, ext. 7374.

Tuberculosis remains a worldwide health threat, But may be fully treated if detected early

World awareness day is March 24

“It’s a Small World-TB Knows No Borders” is the DuPage County Health Department’s theme for World TB Day, which is celebrated worldwide on March 24.

Tuberculosis is an airborne infectious disease that is preventable and curable.

If TB disease is detected early and fully treated, people with the disease become non-infectious and eventually cured.

One in 10 people infected with TB will become sick with active TB in their lifetime; people with HIV are at a much greater risk.

TB is contagious and spreads through the air; if not treated, each person with active TB infects on average 10 to 15 people every year.

Last year there were 521 cases of TB in Illinois, including 28 in DuPage County.

Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR TB) and extensively drug-resistant TB are major challenges facing TB programs worldwide.

The TB clinic at DuPage County Health Department provides TB testing and treatment. Call (630) 682-7400 for information.

“We promote health, prevent illness and provide quality service”