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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DuPage County Health Department Observes World TB Day, Continues Efforts to Prevent and Control Tuberculosis in DuPage**

**DuPage County**— To raise awareness about tuberculosis (TB) prevention and treatment methods, the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) is joining national and international partners in recognizing March 24 as [World TB Day](#).

DuPage County has seen a steady rise in TB cases between 2010 and 2022. We are currently experiencing more than 25 active TB cases this year to date, compared to a total of 30 active cases in all of 2020. The rise in TB cases may be attributed to COVID-19 mitigations ending and the delays in diagnosing individuals during the pandemic.

TB is a contagious and potentially life-threatening disease that is transmitted from person-to-person through the air when a person with active TB coughs or sneezes. People with TB are most likely to spread the germs to people they spend time with every day, such as family members or coworkers. TB is preventable, treatable, and curable. TB can be prevented by diagnosing and treating persons with active TB disease. It can also be prevented by identifying and treating persons with latent TB infection who, if untreated, may develop active TB disease.

Overall, without treatment, about 5 to 10% of infected persons will develop TB disease at some time in their lives. About half of those people who develop TB will do so within the first two years of infection. For persons whose immune systems are weak, especially those with HIV infection, the risk of developing TB disease is considerably higher than for persons with normal immune systems.

In recognizing the goal of TB elimination, the DuPage County Health Department offers a TB Clinic to residents of the county. Services include testing, diagnosis, and treatment and are offered by appointment only; no walk-ins accepted. Call (630) 682-7400 to make an appointment. Learn more at <https://www.dupagehealth.org/326/Tuberculosis>



Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.