



# CITY OF HARTFORD

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

131 Coventry Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06112  
Ph: (860) 543-8860  
Fax: (860) 722-6851  
www.hartford.gov



**EDDIE A. PEREZ**  
Mayor

**CARLOS RIVERA**  
Director

Contact: Carol Steinke Public, Health Nursing Supervisor  
860-543-8820 or [Steic001@hartford.gov](mailto:Steic001@hartford.gov)

## **MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> IS WORLD TUBERCULOSIS (TB) DAY**

**Public Health Officials Urge Awareness and Vigilance to Combat One of the World’s Deadliest Diseases**

The City of Hartford Health and Human Services, Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and public health officials across the state and nation will recognize World TB (Tuberculosis) Day. March 24<sup>th</sup> commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch astounded the scientific community by announcing that he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus. At the time of Koch's announcement in Berlin, TB was raging through Europe and the Americas, causing the death of one out of every seven people. Koch's discovery opened the way toward diagnosing and curing tuberculosis.

“The City of Hartford had 45 active TB cases from 2004-2009. In 2009, 76% of these cases were born outside of the United States or Puerto Rico/Other US Territories. Disparities in TB persist among members of racial and ethnic minority populations. In 2009, the majority (78%) of all reported TB cases in Hartford occurred in racial and ethnic minorities,” stated Carlos Rivera, Director of the Hartford Department of Health and Human Services.

**On World TB Day, March 24<sup>th</sup>, The City of Hartford Health and Human Services Department will provide Tuberculosis information at 131 Coventry St. in the first floor lobby from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.**

Worldwide, TB continues to be a major cause of illness and death. Drug resistant TB, caused by inconsistent or partial treatment, is also a growing concern. One third of the world’s population is currently infected with TB (defined as latent tuberculosis infection). Five to ten percent of those infected with TB will become sick with active TB some time during their life.

Connecticut public health officials are joining in a campaign organized by the global “Stop TB Partnership,” to bring an end to this epidemic. The campaign’s slogan is “I am stopping TB.”

Tuberculosis is transmitted through the air and is both treatable and preventable. It particularly affects persons from countries where TB incidence is high, persons who have HIV infection, and persons who have recently been exposed to someone with TB.

Progress is being made in the fight against TB. In most parts of the world, the number of new cases is falling slowly. In the United States, the disease rates among those born in the U.S. are at their lowest levels ever. Connecticut has, and continues to be, among the states with the lowest rates of TB. In recent years, there have been 90-110 cases of TB reported annually in Connecticut.

The DPH TB Control Program is responsible for TB control efforts in the state and works with healthcare providers and local health departments in a variety of activities including monitoring for new cases, assuring completion of treatment of disease, investigating and treating contacts who have been recently exposed and promoting screening for infection in a variety of settings.

For more information, go to [www.stoptb.org](http://www.stoptb.org) or visit the Department of Public Health TB Control Program website at [www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph), click on Programs and Services, Tuberculosis.

