



PEDRO E. SEGARRA
MAYOR

CITY OF HARTFORD TO RECOGNIZE WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY

--- NEWS AND COMMUNITY STATEMENT---

(March 22, 2012) -- The City of Hartford Health and Human Services and public health officials across the state and nation will recognize World TB (Tuberculosis) Day to increase awareness and vigilance about one of the world's deadliest diseases.

"Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease that today claims more than a million lives worldwide annually," said Raul Pino, Acting Director of Health and Human Services. "By working together with officials locally and worldwide, we can work to help bring down the numbers of cases, avoid spread and at some point eliminate this disease".

March 24th 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 bacteria. At the time of Koch's announcement, 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 Health and Human Services is joining in a campaign organized by the global Stop TB Partnership, to bring an end to this epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's theme for this year is "Stop TB In My Lifetime" and encourages partnership across the globe. Worldwide TB continues to be a major cause of disease and death. In 2010, the number of cases of TB worldwide was estimated to be 9 million and 1.5 million deaths were attributed to this disease.

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.

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 disease.

Progress is being made to fight against TB. Connecticut is one of the states with the lowest rates of TB. In 2011 Connecticut had 83 cases, a decline of 2.4%, 63 cases (75.9 %) pulmonary and 20(24.1 %) extrapulmonary, 66 (78.3%) foreign born from 23 different nations. Nations with 5 or more cases

included; India, Haiti, and the Philippines, 8.4% were HIV Co-infected and 1.2% were Multi Drug Resistant. Hartford had only 4 active TB cases in 2011 a 40% decline from 2010 (10 active cases).

For more information please visit us on Friday March 23rd from 9 am-12 pm in the Burgdorf Building Lobby(Information Table), 131 Coventry St. Hartford, CT or contact Carol Steinke 860-757-4846, email steic001@hartford.gov .

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