April 24, 2019

Dear ESF Community,

Below is a message that was shared yesterday by our neighbors at Syracuse University regarding an SU student who is being treated for tuberculosis (TB). I wanted to inform you of the situation, and urge you to seek medical help if you feel you need it.

As Dr. Nardella notes below, most people who are exposed to TB never develop the active disease, but it is customary to screen individuals who may have had significant and prolonged contact with someone with the active disease. Significant or prolonged contact can be defined as living in the same house as an individual with active TB or being in the same room for extended periods of time.

Students seeking medical advice should contact Crouse Medical Practice at 315-766-1628. Faculty and staff, please contact your primary care physician.

Please take care of yourselves and watch out for one another.

Sincerely,

David Amberg
Interim President

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

I am writing to inform you that one of our students is currently being treated for tuberculosis, commonly referred to as TB. The Office of Health Services is working closely with the Onondaga County Health Department to assist the student, who lives off campus and is not in physical contact with any other
It is important to note that most people who are exposed to TB never develop the active disease. Yet, it is customary to screen individuals who may have had significant and prolonged contact with someone with the active disease. Out of an abundance of caution, the Onondaga County Health Department and staff in Health Services will contact anyone who could have possibly been exposed for testing.

What is tuberculosis?
TB bacteria can be spread from someone with TB through the air to those who frequently share the same air for long periods of time. TB is much less infectious compared to other illnesses such as a common cold. TB can be prevented. And if disease occurs, it is almost always curable with medications that are commonly available.

How does it spread?
It takes repeated and prolonged exposure in an indoor space to become infected. TB is not spread by shaking someone’s hand; sharing food or drink; touching bed linens or toilet seats; sharing toothbrushes; or kissing.

What are the symptoms?
The most common symptoms include excessive coughing that lasts three weeks or longer, significant chest pain and coughing up blood and phlegm. Other symptoms include extreme fatigue, weakness, no appetite, chills, fever or night sweats.

For more information on TB, I encourage you to visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Students who have questions or concerns should contact the Office of Health Services at 315.443.9005. Faculty and staff, please contact your primary care physician directly.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen Nardella
Medical Director