



City and County of San Francisco
Mark Farrell
Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

Commemorate World TB Day! *Testing and treatment is key to elimination* Walk to Make California TB-Free

With an increase of new TB cases in 2017, SF continues efforts to eliminate TB

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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www.ctca.org

SAN FRANCISCO (March 21, 2018) – The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program will recognize World TB Day on March 22 by honoring North East Medical Services (NEMS) for their exemplary leadership in tuberculosis (TB) prevention. Following the ceremony, California Tuberculosis Controllers Association (CTCA) and Breathe California Golden Gate will lead a walk from NEMS to Vaillancourt Fountain near the San Francisco Ferry Building to raise TB awareness.

TB is one of the world's deadliest infectious diseases, responsible for more deaths each year than HIV/AIDS. In 2016, nearly 1.7 million people died of TB disease, even though TB disease is both preventable and curable.

"TB is more common than you may think," said Dr. Chris Keh, Director of the Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program. "Up to 8 percent of San Franciscans are infected with tuberculosis and most are not aware of their diagnosis. Targeted screening and treatment for TB is the best way to protect yourself and others."

More than 2,000 people are diagnosed with TB disease in California every year, making up over 20 percent of all TB disease cases diagnosed across the nation. TB disease can be prevented by testing people with TB risk factors and treating those with TB infection. Nearly 2.4 million Californians have TB infection, but most have not been diagnosed and treated. These individuals have no symptoms and are not contagious, but without treatment they are at risk for becoming sick with TB disease in the future if their immune systems are no



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longer able to prevent the bacteria from growing. Symptoms of TB disease can include a cough for more than two to three weeks, coughing up blood, shortness of breath, fever, night sweats and weight loss.

San Francisco reported 107 new cases in 2017, an increase from 2016 (100 cases) and 2015 (96 cases), which was the lowest rate in city history. CTCA provides an [interactive map](#) of California that provides 2016 TB data for all counties. Data for 2017 will be posted on March 22.

In San Francisco, people born outside of the U.S. continue to experience higher TB rates compared to their U.S.-born counterparts, with the highest rates among Asians / Pacific Islanders and Hispanics.

Others -at high risk for TB infection or progression to TB disease include those who have traveled to or lived in a country with an elevated TB rate for at least one month, are immunosuppressed, or have come in close contact to someone with infectious TB.

TB screening and treatment are essential to eliminate TB. If you have a risk factor for TB or are unsure, ask your health care provider about testing and treatment. A printable list of TB testing sites in San Francisco can be found [here](#).

No one is immune to TB. When a person with TB disease coughs, people who share that same air can become infected as well. SFDPH continues to find and treat TB infection and TB disease, partnering with clinics in the community like NEMS, in order to achieve a TB-free California.

MEDIA ALERT

After the NEMS recognition event, community members and leaders are invited to participate in the third annual "SF Walk to End TB", sponsored by CTCA, SFDPH, and Breathe California Golden Gate. Partners of the California TB Elimination Coalition will also join to raise TB awareness to create a TB-free California.

WHAT: SFDPH / CTCA / Breathe California Ceremony honoring NEMS leadership in TB prevention and "SF Walk to End TB"

WHO: *Speakers*
Dr. Chris Keh, Director, TB Prevention and Control Program, SFDPH
Dr. Jennifer Flood, Chief, TB Control Branch, CDPH
Dr. Jerry Jew, Medical Director, NEMS
Dr. Tanya Stevenson, President & CEO Breathe California Golden Gate

WHEN: Thursday, March 22, 2018



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Ceremony (9:00AM- 10:00AM)

“SF Walk to End TB” from NEMS to SF Ferry Building (10:30 AM – 11:00AM)

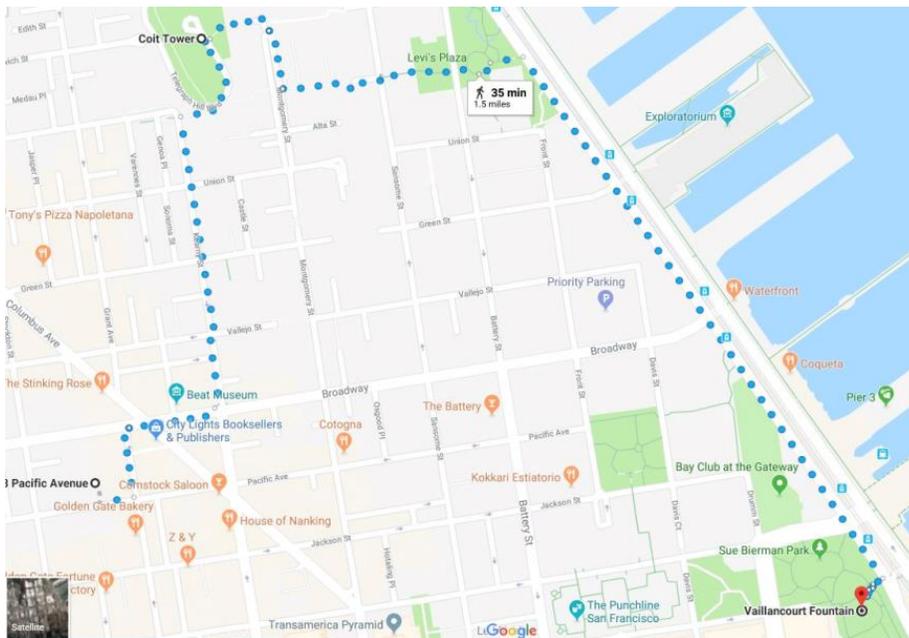
WHERE: North East Medical Services
728 Pacific Ave, Floor 2
San Francisco, 94133

Walk from NEMS to Vaillancourt Fountain, near the Ferry Building

Contact Judith Thigpen at California TB Controllers Association www.ctca.org for inquiries about the walk.

Visual: SF City Hall will join the yearly global initiative “Light up the World for TB” and be lit red on March 24th, 2018 in observance of World TB Day

Walking Route: ~35 min, 1.8 miles



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About San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH)

The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans. SFDPH strives to achieve its mission through the work of two main divisions – the San Francisco Health Network and the Population



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Health Division. The San Francisco Health Network is a community of top-rated clinics, hospitals and programs that serves more than 100,000 people annually at sites such as Castro Mission, Chinatown, and Southeast health centers, Zuckerberg San Francisco General and Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center. With a broad community focus, the goal of the Population Health Division is to ensure that San Franciscans have optimal health and wellness at every stage of life. To achieve this, the Division is comprised of branches dedicated to core public health services, such as health protection and promotion, disease and injury prevention, disaster preparedness and response, and environmental health services.

sfdph.org | [@SF_DPH](https://twitter.com/SF_DPH) | facebook.com/sanfranciscohealthnetwork

About North East Medical Services (NEMS)

NEMS' mission is to provide affordable, comprehensive, compassionate and quality health care services in a linguistically competent and culturally sensitive manner to improve the health and well-being of our community.