

# County of Santa Clara

## Public Health Department

Administration  
976 Lenzen Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
San José, CA 95126



April 15, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Santa Clara County continues to have one of the highest rates of tuberculosis (TB) in the United States. TB is a bacterial infection spread through the air and can affect the lungs, brain, bones, or any part of the body. Children can become infected when traveling, from household members, family, or visitors who are infected. Children exposed to someone with TB have a very high risk of developing active TB. If diagnosed early, TB is treatable and preventable.

Santa Clara County has required mandatory tuberculosis (TB) testing for students enrolling in school. However, **effective June 1, 2014, students enrolling into school will be required to undergo TB testing ONLY if their healthcare provider identifies a risk factor for TB exposure. Prior to school enrollment children will be required to have their healthcare provider complete the Santa Clara County Public Health Department Risk Assessment for School Entry form which is attached. Take this form to your provider to complete and return to your child's school.** This requirement applies to students attending both public and private schools in Santa Clara County and is based on the authority given the Santa Clara County Health Officer under the California Health and Safety Code, Section 121515.

This new policy will decrease unnecessary testing and allow healthcare providers to ensure that children who have TB infection are evaluated and treated promptly.

Thank you for helping us protect the health of your children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teb Al-Samirai".

Teeb Al-Samirai, MD  
Tuberculosis Controller