

Notice

Date: February 18, 2014

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

To: General Authorities; Area Seventies; Mission,
Stake, and District Presidents; Bishops and Branch Presidents

From: Missionary Department (801-240-2222)

Subject: Tuberculosis Screening for Returning Missionaries

Tuberculosis is a serious bacterial infection that can destroy the lungs and other vital organs. It is critical that all returning missionaries be tested for tuberculosis because they could have been infected with the disease without having developed immediate symptoms.

Enclosed is the letter that mission presidents will give to returning missionaries, instructing them to be tested for tuberculosis soon after they return home. Electronic copies of this letter can be downloaded by mission presidents from the Mission President's Portal (missionary.lds.org/presidents) or by the mission office staff through the Missionary Medical website (missionarymedical.org).

We ask local priesthood leaders to encourage returning missionaries to be screened for tuberculosis when they return home and to ensure that they have sufficient resources to obtain this care.

Dear Elder/Sister _____:

Subject: Tuberculosis Screening

Tuberculosis is a serious bacterial infection that can destroy the lungs and other vital organs. It is a common infection, with as much as one-third of the world's population harboring the infection. Infected persons who are coughing often spread the infection to others.

Most people are infected with tuberculosis without developing immediate symptoms. This is referred to as *latent tuberculosis*. Those with latent tuberculosis have a 10 percent chance of contracting the disease later.

So that you do not develop serious symptoms from possible exposure to tuberculosis, it is *extremely important* that you be screened for tuberculosis as soon as possible after you return home. Regardless of the results of your pre-mission test for tuberculosis (whether it was positive or negative), you still need to see a physician or your health department when you return home. Additional testing or treatment may also be necessary.

If you are diagnosed with latent tuberculosis, you should follow the recommendations of your doctor or local health department based on your country's health policies. Thank you for taking care of your health so that you may remain a strong and healthy servant of the Lord throughout your life.

Sincerely,

Mission President