The focus of the May/June 2008 issue of Close Contact is the Virginia Department of Health’s Tuberculosis Program (VDH TB Program)

Virginia’s TB Program

Like many of the states within the SE Region, Virginia has a rich history of public health efforts to control TB. These efforts date back to the early 1900s. There also has been a long-standing commitment of the program to educate healthcare professionals and patients about the disease.

TB in Virginia Timeline

1904 - A hospital in Petersburg, Virginia provided first TB sanatorium services
1906 - The General Assembly passed the Anti-Spitting Law.
1909 - Catawba Sanatorium opened; First state-run sanatorium facility was exclusively for whites.
1918 - Piedmont Sanatorium opened; Second state-run sanatorium facility opened for African-Americans
1920 - VA TB  SUMMIT – First annual VA TB Summit held in Charlottesville. A special course in TB was developed for third and fourth year medical students, to be taught by the Medical Director of the Sanatorium and his staff.
1920 – Blue Ridge Sanatorium closed – the last of the TB sanatoriums in Virginia
2000 - First annual VA TB Summit held in Charlottesville.
2001 - State Health Department celebrates 100th anniversary; TB still a concern

Recent epidemiologic data for Virginia indicates that, similar to the U.S. pattern, there has been an overall decline in TB case rates, with 332 active TB cases in 2006 and 309 in 2007. However, the number of reported cases among the foreign-born continues to increase as does the complexity of the cases.

Every case/suspect in VA is assigned to a local PHN case manager. The success of the nursing case management activities across the state is evident; over 92% of eligible patients complete treatment within 1 year and many MDR/TB cases are successfully managed and treated as outpatients. Read more. Over the last 6 years, annual training programs have been held to not only update the knowledge and skills of the PHN case managers, but also to work on various nursing issues related to TB case management. One item that has evolved from workgroups held during the annual training sessions is the TB Service Plan. To learn more about this plan, click here.

The VDH TB program also has continued the historical commitment to patient education, developing content for a variety of multimedia formats. Including more recently, iPhones. The multi-cultural educational materials have been translated into nine languages and allow the patient to hear the material, especially important for those who can not read. Click here to access, http://www.healthylifestyles.org/topics/tuberculosis.htm

Upcoming Courses

July 15-17
TB Program Management
Charlottesville, Virginia

August 6
Fans, Filters or Rays?: Reconsidering TB Transmission and Control Interventions in the Era of HIV and XDR-TB
Webinar & Lantana, Florida

August 6
TB Morbidity and Mortality Review
Webinar & Lantana, Florida

August 13
Arresting TB: Understanding the Culture of Corrections
Webinar

August 20
Country-specific Guides: Gaining Insights to Your Foreign-Born Client’s Culture and Beliefs about TB
Webinar

August 26-28
TB in Corrections: Contact Investigation and Discharge Planning
Columbia, South Carolina

September 8-11
Comprehensive Clinical TB Course
Lantana, Florida

September 12
TST Train-the-Trainer
Lantana, Florida

Newsy Bytes

TB Lab Training Assessment

The four RTMCs and the CDC are interested in learning about the training needs you have related to TB laboratory and diagnostic services. If you haven’t already completed the assessment, click here to access it: http://www.zoonerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB227VBYM6YJ. This web-based assessment will remain open until July 22, 2008.

National Conference on Latinos and AIDS

This conference takes place July 28-29, 2008 at the Miami Beach Resort and Spa. The goal is to update the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of healthcare providers who care for patients with HIV/AIDS. SNTC’s Dave Ashkin, MD, will present a session on non-native English speaking patients. Visit http://www.minorityhealthcare.com to view the complete program and register.

Contact the Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center (SNTC)

The Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center is one of four Regional Training and Medical Consultation Centers (RTMCs) funded by the CDC. The SNTC seeks to address the training, education, medical consultation, and technical assistance needs of healthcare providers and TB programs in 11 southeastern states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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The Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center's e-news
Informing the southeast region about TB-related resources and training opportunities

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Se Habla Español

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