



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY HEALTH CLINIC STUTTART
UNIT 30401
APO AE 09107

February 24, 2011

Office of the Commander

Dear Community Member:

A member of the Stuttgart community has had a reactivation of a previously treated Tuberculosis (TB) infection and has been hospitalized in a Host Nation facility for treatment. The patient is receiving appropriate medical care.

Transmission of TB requires direct contact with someone diagnosed with TB who is coughing or sneezing. While transmission is possible from workplace contact, persons living in the home of someone diagnosed with TB would have the highest risk of exposure due to the close proximity of family members. Symptoms of TB include a frequent cough for 3 weeks or longer, fever, weakness, loss of appetite, night sweats, and unintentional weight loss.

Please note that TB, while a serious disease, is much more difficult to spread than a viral illness such as the flu. Even family members with close daily contact with an actively infected individual may not become infected. The appropriate evaluation for individuals exposed to TB depends on the duration of exposure, the proximity to the individual and the environment in which contact occurs (for example, a well ventilated area would decrease the risk of exposure compared to contact in an enclosed space, such as a small car).

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic is currently engaged in screening close contacts of the individual diagnosed with TB. For more information, please contact your Primary Care Manager or the Public Health Nurse at 0711-680-6383, or visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://cdc.gov/tb>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry B. Connell".

Larry B. Connell
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding