*[Replace this text with your organization’s identifier.]*

*[SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE]*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS WITH   
LOCAL SCHOOL TO PROTECT STUDENT HEALTH

Director: ***[name of director]*** Contact Person: ***[name of contact person]***

***[Date]***

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***[County name]*** County Public Health Department has identified an individual associated with ***[school name]*** School who has contagious tuberculosis (TB). In conjunction with school officials and staff, the Public Health Department is in the process of evaluating students and staff who have been exposed. The most common way to become infected with TB bacteria is by spending a lot of time with a person who has active TB in enclosed spaces with poor ventilation.

There is a difference between TB infection and TB disease. People with TB disease are sick from the bacteria that are *active* in their bodies and they may cough a lot, feel weak, have a fever, lose weight, cough up blood, or have night sweats. People with TB disease are capable of giving the infection to others. People with TB infection (without disease) have the TB bacteria in their bodies, but they are not sick because the bacteria is *inactive.* They cannot spread the TB bacteria to others. About one out of ten people with TB infection becomes sick with TB disease. TB can be treated and cured.

Although it may be a new experience for some, communicable disease investigation is a regular activity for the ***[county name]*** County Public Health Department. The current investigation under way is a classic example of TB exposure investigation and is an important step in helping prevent the spread of TB. All students and staff who test positive for infection will receive further testing and medication to ensure that they do not develop the active form of TB disease.

***[Optional text below.]***

There will be an informational meeting, including a question and answer period, for students, parents/guardians, and school staff on ***[day]***, ***[date]*** at ***[time]*** at ***[name of venue]*** located at ***[address]***. The ***[county name]*** County Public Health Department has established a telephone line for anyone with questions regarding TB exposure. Callers can leave their name, number and question at ***[telephone number]*** and a Health Department representative will contact them.