January 27, 2015

Dear University of the District of Columbia Community College faculty, staff and students,

The District of Columbia Department of Health’s (DC DOH) Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program is working very closely with University of the District of Columbia University Health Services to investigate an exposure of tuberculosis at UDC-CC 801 North Capital Street NE. Faculty and students who were in close contact with the TB patient have already been identified and are in the process of being notified and tested. Identified closed contacts will receive a symptom/risk assessment and a TB blood test performed by trained DC DOH representatives.

Tuberculosis is a disease caused by bacteria known as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB is spread from person to person through the air. This can occur by sharing air space for an extended period of time in an enclosed setting such as in a small room. You cannot contract TB by touching an object. TB usually affects the lungs. The bacteria are placed in the air when a person with TB of the lungs coughs, sneezes, laughs or sings. Tuberculosis is a disease that can be cured if treated properly.

Symptoms of TB may include:
- a cough that lasts for three weeks or more
- blood in the sputum (concentrated saliva)
- loss of appetite
- unexplained weight loss
- fever
- extreme fatigue (tiredness)
- sore throat or hoarseness

Please feel free to contact your primary care physician or the DC DOH Division of STD and TB Control if you have questions or concerns. The TB Control Program can be reached at 202-698-4040, Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:15am to 4:45pm. University Health Services can be reached at 202-274-5030.

Sincerely,

Valerie Epps, PhD, Vice President for Student Affairs

Ayana Elliott, DNP, CRNP, Director of Health Services