

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE

Dear

The Johns Hopkins Hospital continually monitors for any transmission of infectious diseases and takes appropriate steps to prevent such transmission among patients and staff. In this way, it has come to our attention that you and those who accompanied you may have been exposed to a patient with tuberculosis (TB) during your recent care at our hospital.

The risk of transmission is believed to be very low even if you were exposed to TB, and the infection is highly treatable. Patients with TB are most likely to spread the germs to those with whom they spend time every day, such as close family members, rather than to those who have brief, casual or distant contact.

However, because there is a chance that you have been exposed, The Johns Hopkins Hospital urges you to be screened for TB. You can have this screening done at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, where the screening test and any additional follow up evaluations will be free of charge to you. Alternatively, you can contact your personal physician or your local health department to arrange for screening. Wherever you go for screening, please bring this letter with you to your appointment. We also ask that if you have the screening test done somewhere other than Johns Hopkins that you call us at 410-955-6211 with the results.

The most common TB test is done by placing a small amount of fluid (called tuberculin) just under the skin in the lower part of the arm. A trained health care worker then re-examines the skin within 48 to 72 hours to look for a local reaction. It is important to know that a positive test

does not necessarily mean you have active infection, only that further tests and evaluation should be done.

TB is a lung disease caused by germs spread from person to person through the air. TB can also affect other parts of the body. The general symptoms include feelings of sickness or weakness, weight loss, fever, and night sweats. In advanced stages, people with TB experience coughing, chest pain, and the coughing up of blood.

If you would like to arrange to have a TB test done at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, or if you have questions or concerns, please call **410-955-6211**.

Again, Johns Hopkins wants to assure you that the risks of infection are very low and that our commitment to your health and safety remains strong. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this issue may cause.

Sincerely,

Trish Perl, MD MSc

Hospital Epidemiologist

Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control

The Johns Hopkins Hospital