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NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Secretary Catherine Torres, M.D.

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**Some New Mexico Pharmacies to Administer Skin Tests for Tuberculosis**  
*Free Training to Be Held for New Mexico Pharmacists*

(Santa Fe) – New Mexicans will soon be able to receive tuberculosis skin tests at participating pharmacies throughout the state. The New Mexico Department of Health is providing web and hands-on training that will enable pharmacists to administer skin tests for tuberculosis ensuring accurate placement and reading of the tests. This service will provide another option for tuberculosis testing, which can be requirement for work or school or a change in immigration status.

Only pharmacists that attend the free webinar and receive the hands-on training will be able to administer the skin test. Registration and viewing of the webinar “Understanding the Tuberculin Skin Test” can be coordinated through Heartland National TB Center at their website at [www.heartlandntbc.org/training.asp#webinar](http://www.heartlandntbc.org/training.asp#webinar).

The New Mexico Department of Health, working with the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy and the New Mexico Pharmacist Association (NMPHA), will hold three hands-on trainings: (1) in Roswell on September 25<sup>th</sup>; (2) in Albuquerque on October 2<sup>nd</sup>; and (3) in the Santa Fe/Taos area on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Pharmacists can obtain registration information on the NMPHA website at: <http://www.nm-pharmacy.com/> or by contacting Dale Tinker at 505-265-8729 or [daletinker@cs.com](mailto:daletinker@cs.com).

People with signs and symptoms of active tuberculosis will be referred to a local public health office or to their primary care provider. Additionally, anyone presenting to the pharmacy as a contact to an infectious case will be referred to the local public health office to determine what type of exposure they may have had and if a tuberculosis skin test is indicated.

Signs and symptoms of tuberculosis include a cough greater than three weeks, unexplained weight loss, night sweats, fatigue, and lethargy. If not treated properly, tuberculosis can be fatal. Tuberculosis was once the leading cause of death in the United States. New Mexico had 51 cases of tuberculosis in 2010, 48 cases in 2009, 60 cases in 2008, and 51 cases in 2007. Tuberculosis is spread through the air from one person to another. The bacteria are put into the air when a person with active tuberculosis of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings.

For more information about tuberculosis in New Mexico go online to [www.nmhealth.org](http://www.nmhealth.org).



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