

Lee health officials net 7 positive TB tests after confirming case in Edison student

- By [Naples Daily News staff report](#)
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LEE COUNTY — After confirming a case of tuberculosis in an Edison State College student a week-and-a-half ago, Lee County Health Department officials are following another set of potential TB cases related to that student.

During two days last week, health department officials conducted TB skin tests of 51 people at Edison State College and found that seven of those people tested positive for TB bacteria. Health Department spokeswoman Jennifer James-Mesloh cautions that does not mean those seven people have TB disease, but simply that they are infected with the germ.

On average, just one in 10 infected people become ill with TB, she said. The number of positive TB tests results among the 51 people tested is typical of the general population, she said.

Originally, health officials working with the school identified 46 people who came in close contact with the student at Edison, but James-Mesloh said contact investigations tend to be fluid, and that more contacts were identified as her department continued exploring the student's contacts. She reiterated that tuberculosis cannot be contracted through casual contact, like passing someone in the hallway, but is passed along through repeated interaction.

Of those seven people, three have histories that could indicate they were previously infected with the bacteria before coming into contact with the student with confirmed TB, James-Mesloh said. She said all seven people are being evaluated with symptom screens and chest x-rays to determine if they have the disease. Because TB has a long incubation period and may not show up in an

initial screening, the remaining 44 people would receive a second test at the end of June, James-Mesloh said.

Contacts of the seven people with positive TB tests do not need to seek testing, James-Mesloh said.