

## Confirmed case of tuberculosis at Edison State College

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**LEE COUNTY:** There is a confirmed case of tuberculosis on Edison State College's Lee County campus, according to the Lee County Health Department.

Officials we spoke to say every student that came into contact with the person who tested positive will undergo testing soon and that the health department will administer those tests.

Thursday, we spoke to student Kevin Henshaw. He got one of those emails stating a case of tuberculosis has hit the school.

He said word of TB at Edison came right out of the blue.

"It worries me to make sure that, you know, it doesn't get spread out to anybody else because that's one thing I wouldn't want to have," he said.

College officials say though only one person had a diagnosed case of TB, that person had what health officials call "sustained contact" with 42 students and four faculty members.

Now, those students and faculty members have been required to get tested.

"All students are required to get a TB test before entering school and so we know that upon entering, they test negative. So it's very unusual for this to happen," said Catherine Bergerson, spokeswoman for Edison State College.

Officials with the Centers for Disease Control say in 2008, nearly 13,000 people in the U.S. got tuberculosis.

They say it's highly contagious and that symptoms may present similar to those of the common cold and flu.

The CDC says that treatment for TB can take six to 12 months.

But Thursday night, school officials said there's nothing to worry about.

"The health department has given us every assurance that this is not a reason for major alarm," said Bergerson.

Henshaw says he is waiting to find out more before he decides if he'll get tested himself.

"If it comes back and I find out that it could be someone in one of my classes, I'll probably go down and get tested," he said.

Bergerson said those who have to get tested have all been notified. She also said if anyone - student or faculty - thinks they need to get tested, they can go by the Lee County Health Department and show their college ID.