World TB Day 2019

Each year, we recognize World TB Day on March 24. This annual event commemorates the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacillus that causes tuberculosis (TB).

World TB Day is a day to educate the public about the impact of TB around the world. CDC, along with our partners and colleagues around the world share successes in TB prevention and control, and raise awareness of the challenges that hinder our progress toward the elimination of this devastating disease.

The theme of World TB Day 2019 is “It’s TIME” CDC and its domestic and international partners, including the National TB Controllers Association, Stop TB USA, and the global Stop TB Partnership are working together to eliminate this deadly disease. But we need your help.

TB Stories Raise Awareness About Sometimes Overlooked Disease

Tuberculosis is no longer common in the United States. That's unquestionably a public health success. But because today's healthcare professionals often lack familiarity with TB disease, that same success can lead to cases going undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. DSHS's TB & Hansen's Branch is working to change that. This month, in observance of World TB Day (March 24), the Branch will be promoting a series of videos and stories about Texans who contracted TB and got treatment, but often only after first being misdiagnosed. Their stories encourage providers to "think TB" when diagnosing a patient with persistent respiratory illness. Some groups at greater risk for TB include people experiencing homelessness due to frequently congregating in crowded shelters as well as people born outside of the country. But anyone can become infected under the right circumstances, often without knowing where or how. Check out Jerry's Story, a once-homeless veteran who was successfully treated at the Texas Center for Infectious Disease, as well as other success stories.
Upcoming Dates

**March 22:** TB Day Awareness Event, Alamo

**March 22:** World TB Day Conference, Tyler

**March 24:** World TB Day

**March 29:** Southeast Texas World TB Day Conference, Houston