

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL**

March 17, 2026

**Proclaiming March 24<sup>th</sup> as World Tuberculosis Day in Los Angeles County**

Each year on March 24th, World Tuberculosis (TB) Day commemorates Dr. Robert Koch’s 1882 discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium that causes TB. This observance raises public awareness about the ongoing impact of TB and the collective efforts needed to eliminate this preventable and curable disease.

TB is an airborne infectious disease that primarily affects the lungs but can also impact other parts of the body, such as the kidneys, spine, and brain. TB spreads when individuals with active pulmonary TB cough, sneeze, or speak, releasing bacteria into the environment. There are two forms of TB: TB infection and TB disease. TB infection cannot be spread from person to person and occurs when TB bacteria are present in the body but remain dormant, causing no symptoms. TB disease develops when the bacteria become active, causing illness and enabling transmission. Symptoms of TB disease include persistent cough, coughing up blood, fever, night sweats, and weight loss.

In 2024, an estimated 10.7 million people worldwide became ill with TB disease.<sup>1</sup> In Los Angeles County (County), at least one person dies from TB every week, and more than 680,000 residents are estimated to have TB infection. In 2024, 93% of TB cases

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. (2025, November 13). *Tuberculosis*. Retrieved December 17, 2025, from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tuberculosis#:~:text=In%202023%2C%20an%20estimated%2010.8,all%20countries%20and%20age%20groups.>

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MOTION

MITCHELL	_____
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SOLIS	_____

identified as Asian or Hispanic and communities such as South Los Angeles and Florence-Firestone had the highest rates of TB in the County.<sup>2</sup> In 2025, the County provisionally reported 554 TB disease cases, marking the fifth consecutive annual increase, with 59 deaths occurring before or during treatment.

Approximately 5–10% of individuals with untreated TB infection will progress to TB disease, with significantly higher risk among people with HIV, diabetes, tobacco use, or other conditions that weaken the immune system. Risk factors for TB infection include birth or extended residence in a country with high TB incidence, close contact with someone with TB disease, homelessness, or a history of incarceration. Short-course treatment for TB infection prevents progression to active disease. TB disease requires longer treatment with multi-drug regimens and specialized care. Early screening, diagnosis, and treatment remain essential to stopping transmission.

The County Department of Public Health (DPH) remains committed to reducing TB transmission. In 2025, DPH identified 2,410 contacts to infectious TB, investigated 64 clusters, detected six new outbreaks, and monitored four ongoing outbreaks. To support treatment completion and reduce barriers to care, 300 individuals received 4,605 nights of housing and more than 11,000 food and grocery gift cards.

The County supports World TB Day by recognizing the dedication of public health professionals, community partners, and healthcare providers working to eliminate TB locally. The 2026 theme, “Yes! We Can End TB,” reflects the importance of collaboration and sustained action. The TB Control Program, the Coalition to End TB in the County, and the Southern California Regional TB Elimination Community of Practice continue to advance coordinated elimination strategies, expand testing for at-risk individuals, and ensure appropriate treatment for all residents with TB infection or TB disease.

**I THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Proclaim March 24<sup>th</sup> as World Tuberculosis (TB) Day throughout the County of Los Angeles (County) and participate in the global “Light Up the World”

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/tb/docs/2024TuberculosisFactSheet.pdf>

- campaign, by illuminating County facilities, with the capability to, in red—the symbolic color of TB—on the evening of March 24th.
2. Direct the Director of the Department of Public Health (DPH) to commemorate World TB Day through the following activities:
    - a. Posting TB awareness materials on DPH social media platforms during the month leading up to March 24<sup>th</sup>.
    - b. Publishing the County's TB Fact Sheet for 2025.
    - c. Advancing the development and implementation of the 2026–2030 TB Elimination Plan.
    - d. Creating informational materials on silicosis and TB testing and treatment to fight the silico-TB outbreak in engineered stone workers.
    - e. Participating in a public health TB testing event in the San Fernando Valley to expand access to TB testing for engineered stone workers.

(VG)