

TB+Leprosy Free Chuuk!

September 25, 2019

To the TB Community,

The Chuuk State Department of Health Services will soon begin an island-wide TB screening and treatment project. The goal is to identify, evaluate and treat both active and latent TB infection (LTBI) cases among adults and children living on Weno, Tol, and Polle islands. Our 30-week project will take place **between March and September 2020, with follow-up and treatment teams continuing to work until October 2020.**

This is quite an ambitious effort! We plan to screen more than 20,000 people to diagnose and treat TB in the community. The published rate of TB disease in Chuuk is well over 300/100,000 – however, our work in neighboring Ebeye and Majuro Islands demonstrated a rate of over 1000/100,000 among adults, increasing to 2,400/100,000 among adults with poorly controlled diabetes. In addition to finding and treating active TB, we will be testing (TST) and treating (mostly 3HP) adults and children with LTBI. We will also screen for Hansen’s Disease (HD), and provide diabetes screening for adults found to have active TB, LTBI, or HD. For new TB cases that are infectious, we will also include a household contact investigation to ensure residents undergo TB screening and are offered TB prevention.

We are again seeking volunteer professionals to help us for this effort. We welcome trained individuals with significant TB experience who are willing to volunteer their time and energy for this innovative, large-scale project. These volunteers should be a mix of clinicians, nurses, and epi/data support. The National government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Chuuk State government, with approval from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the assistance of the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA), is offering to pay round-trip airfare (U.S. carriers), hotel, and a modest per-diem for volunteers. Each volunteer is expected to provide at least three (3) weeks of high-intensity time to the 30-week project. No salary or honorarium will be paid.

This will be a unique “hands-on” effort integrating multi-disciplinary teams of experienced volunteers from the U.S. mainland, TB programs of the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands, WHO staff, Pacific regional TB experts, and current Chuuk State Public Health program staff. The activities of volunteer staff will be divided between active TB case-finding, delivery of TB prevention, and working with the Chuuk State TB program to provide further work-up, DOT, and DOPT when indicated. We will need 10 to 12 volunteers for each of the ten 3-week sessions (see next page for list of preliminary dates and expected screening sites).

We invite you to join us for an introductory webinar about the project:

- Tuesday, October 1, 2019 3:00pm ET / 2:00pm CT / 1:00pm MT / 12:00pm PT
- Registration and password aren't required.
To join the webinar, click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/576804475>
- Website Link for Volunteer sign-up: <https://www.surveymogizmo.com/s3/5234941/2020-TB-Free-Chuuk-Volunteer-Form-Final>

Please consider this opportunity to help advance TB control in the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands!

Sincerely,



Dick Brostrom, MD, MSPH
CDC TB Medical Officer, Hawai'i & U.S. Pacific Islands
External Coordinator



Jon Warkentin, MD, MPH
Med. Dir., Tennessee TB Elimination Program
Asst. NTCA Volunteer Coordinator

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NTCA Volunteer Schedule (Final Draft)

Group	Depart Mainland (Saturday, variable)	*Depart Honolulu (Sunday, ~7am UA 132)	Arrive Chuuk (Monday, ~ 3pm)	Main Activity	Depart Chuuk (Wednesday, 10am UA 155)	**Depart Honolulu (Wednesday, variable)
Group A	03/07/20	03/08/20	03/09/20	Train, Screen Weno	04/01/20	04/01/20
Group B	03/28/20	03/29/20	03/30/20	Screen Weno	04/22/20	04/22/20
Group C	04/18/20	04/19/20	04/20/20	Screen Weno	05/13/20	05/13/20
Group D	05/09/20	05/10/20	05/11/20	Screen Weno	06/03/20	06/03/20
Group E	05/30/20	05/31/20	06/01/20	Screen Weno	06/24/20	06/24/20
Group F	06/20/20	06/21/20	06/22/20	Screen Weno Screen Tol	07/15/20	07/15/20
Group G	07/11/20	07/12/20	07/13/20	Screen Tol	08/05/20	08/05/20
Group H	08/01/20	08/02/20	08/03/20	Screen Tol Screen Polle	08/26/20	08/26/20
Group I	08/22/20	08/23/20	08/24/20	Screen Polle Follow-ups	09/16/20	09/16/20
Group J	09/12/20	09/13/20	09/14/20	Follow-Ups	10/07/20	10/07/20

* 1 night shared Hotel in Hawaii provided for all incoming volunteers

** 1 night shared Hotel provided for outgoing volunteers with mainland return flights after 2pm.