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**Bay Area Sees Increase in Active TB Cases in 2007  
Drug Resistant Strains Continue to Emerge**

**Regional Press Conference Planned for World TB Day at SFO**

**San Francisco, CA**—Tuberculosis (TB) cases increased throughout the Bay Area from 2006 to 2007. In San Francisco alone, TB rose from 120 active cases in 2006 to 143 in 2007, a trend that TB Control Officers say may signal cracks in the effective programs that drove rates down in the prior decade.

TB is an equal opportunity, airborne disease that can hop on a plane or bus, go to the movies, dine at the trendiest restaurants, or live in your place of residence or work. Since international travel today is almost as common as a Bay Bridge commute, and San Francisco is a major international port of entry into the U.S., much of the TB in the Bay Area migrates here from TB-endemic countries. What is most alarming is the global rise of multi-drug resistant TB.

In San Francisco, World TB Day 2008 will be observed on Monday, March 24, 10a.m., at the San Francisco International Airport, Louis A. Turpen Aviation Museum, located in the International Terminal Lobby.

Because of the great amount of media attention that has been devoted to the spread of TB, particularly multidrug resistant TB via air travel, San Francisco and Bay Area TB control programs are commemorating World TB Day 2008 at San Francisco International Airport, highlighting the global spread of this airborne disease in the modern era.

As recent events have demonstrated, air travel brings with it a whole new level of complications and risks related to the global spread of TB and multidrug resistant TB:

- Global travel in less than a day means that diseases from TB-endemic countries can spread to anywhere in the world very quickly
- TB-infected individuals may not know they have the disease, much less that they are infectious, when they get on a plane
- Because TB anywhere is TB everywhere, local TB control programs and government need to remain ever vigilant to stop the spread of TB and multidrug resistant TB
- It is crucial that we retain the tools to rapidly diagnose less curable multidrug resistant TB

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Press Conference Highlights:

- Dr. Masae Kawamura, Director of TB Control, San Francisco, will be joined by three patients with active TB who will tell their stories in English, Spanish and Chinese.
- The TB Controllers from Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, and representatives from the California TB Controllers Association will review their local perspective of the case increase and what must be done.
- The work of the Centers for Disease Control Division of Global Migration and Quarantine will be honored.
- RESULTS International, Breathe California, and the American Lung Association will also provide their support for the 9 million people suffering from TB around the world.

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