

# **Case Presentation**

Tuberculosis

Contact Investigation in Jail

# Case 2

September 2000:

- After an ER examines a 30-year-old female prostitute, her sputa are found to be AFB smear- positive (+)
- The local health department (LHD) cannot locate her in the community

## Case 2 (2)

Mid-October 2000

- The LHD notifies the jail staff who locate her in the jail's Honor Farm
- She (TB suspect) had been in the Honor Farm for 3 weeks

# Review Jail and Medical Records

On entry to jail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Smear+</li><li>•On antibiotics for pneumonia</li></ul>
At start of isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Coughing</li><li>•Chest x-ray: bilateral infiltrates</li></ul>
During 6-week isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•4 drug anti-tuberculosis therapy started</li><li>•3 negative smears</li><li>•Clinical improvement</li></ul>
Released from isolation	

**Infectious from entry into jail**

# Exposure Site(s)

- Housing unit
- Transportation vehicle
- Court holding cell

# High-Priority Contacts

## 10 Custody Staff

- 9 initial TSTs, no positives
- 9 repeat TSTs, no positives

# High-Priority Contacts (2)

## 36 Inmates

- 24 still incarcerated and given initial TSTs, no positives:
  - 18 second TSTs, 2 positives
  - 6 not found for second TST
  - 24 records flagged, in case re-incarcerated
- 12 released prior to initial TSTs:
  - 3 located and tested
  - 1 returned for retesting and was positive
  - 11 records flagged in case re-incarcerated

# Lessons Learned

- LHD immediately notifies jail and flags records of TB suspects with a history/risk of incarceration
- Corrections staff should “think TB”
- Flag jail records in case unevaluated contacts are re-incarcerated