



**ST VINCENT'S  
HOSPITAL**  
SYDNEY

A FACILITY OF ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA

**St Vincent's Hospital Sydney Limited**  
ABN 77 054 038 872

390 Victoria Street  
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

Telephone 02 8382 1111  
Facsimile 02 9332 4142  
[www.svha.org.au](http://www.svha.org.au)

Dear Staff Member

### **TB SCREENING – IMPORTANT ADVICE REGARDING YOUR HEALTH**

As you may be aware, in June of this year, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney identified a small cluster of Tuberculosis (TB) cases at the Hospital – relating to a very specific exposure period last year.

Whole genome sequencing has now identified a total of seven cases of TB in Sydney that are genetically identical. Six of these cases have been diagnosed and managed at St Vincent's Hospital and it is likely that the first person in the St Vincent's cluster, diagnosed in late 2019, transmitted the infection to three patients and two staff members while in the Hospital prior to his diagnosis.

This transmission period related to a specific time period late last year within a confined area of the Hospital.

Since discovering this cluster, the Hospital has been working very hard with NSW Health and St Vincent's TB clinical experts to identify this targeted group of staff, patients and members of the public who may have been exposed and commenced the process of informing them and organising for appropriate testing as a precaution.

Our records indicate that you have been invited to undergo TB screening and have not yet attended, or have not completed all the requirements for screening yet. We remind you that TB screening is important for your health and the health of those around you. The screening is also a compulsory occupational requirement for health care workers.

Whilst the risk of TB infection is relatively low in general, the risk may be higher in some individuals. It is also important to note that people with Tuberculosis infection may not have symptoms and are consequently not aware of their TB infection without specific testing, which is being arranged by the St Vincent's Chest Clinic free of charge.

We ask that you attend the TB screening Clinic, located in the Outpatients Department on Level 3, as soon as possible. The Clinic hours are Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm. If you are unable to attend the Clinic within these times please email [SVHNSTBClinic@svha.org.au](mailto:SVHNSTBClinic@svha.org.au) or phone 1800 943 123.

This request for you to attend screening is supported by the NSW Health Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases policy directive – available on our SVHNS Intranet.

Thank you for your understanding. Should you wish to understand more, we have established a dedicated support-line on 1800 943 123 (8am – 4.30pm Mon-Fri) and TB resources pages on both the SVHN staff Intranet and the hospital website. Importantly, if you would like some additional support, our EAP service is available to you. Call Access EAP on 1800 818 728 to arrange a telephone or video counselling appointment.

Kind regards,

**Dr Anthony Byrne**

MBBS MIPH BAppSc FRACP PhD

Staff Specialist Thoracic Physician, St Vincent's Hospital Chest Clinic