



## *News Release*

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**For More Information:**

Dena Potter

Director of Communications

Office: (804) 786-0282

Mobile: (804) 356-5508

[dena.potter@dgs.virginia.gov](mailto:dena.potter@dgs.virginia.gov)

# **Equipment Issue at State Laboratory Impacts Nearly 200 Patients' TB Test Results**

**RICHMOND, VA** – The Department of General Services has notified affected health care providers of an equipment issue at its Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) that potentially impacted the results of nearly 200 patients who were tested for tuberculosis, better known as TB.

DCLS recently identified the equipment issue, which may have led to the reporting of false negative results for 177 individuals over a two-month period. The incorrect setting on a backup centrifuge used to process samples could have resulted in a slight reduction in the ability to identify trace amounts of the TB bacteria.

The state laboratory supplied health care providers a list of their patients who could have been impacted. While the potential for false negative results is minimal, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recommended that health care providers review each patient on the list to determine if additional tests are needed.

In Virginia, 9.8 percent of all individuals tested for TB are positive. VDH reported 205 cases of TB in Virginia in 2017.

As a result of the equipment issue, DCLS has instituted new verification and traceability protocols for all TB lab instruments.

DCLS performs more than 7 million tests annually to identify genetic and metabolic disorders in newborn children and to detect infectious agents and toxic chemicals in humans, animals, the environment, the food we eat and the water we drink.

For more information on DCLS, visit <https://dgs.virginia.gov/dcls/>. For more information on TB, visit the VDH's Division of TB and Newcomer Health at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/tuberculosis-and-newcomer-health/>.

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