

**Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Healthier and Safer Grant County**

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**I AM Stopping TB**

GRANT COUNTY, WA – World TB Day is March 24. This annual event recognizes the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of the bacteria that cause TB (tuberculosis). The good news is we are making progress on TB. In 2005 the rate of new cases of TB worldwide leveled off for the first time since the World Health Organization began collecting data about the disease. With early detection and treatment we can stop TB from spreading.

In the last three years, Grant County has reported 6 cases of active TB; two of these were drug-resistant, requiring treatment with drug combinations other than those usually recommended (these can be more expensive, more likely to have side effects). Public Health faces many challenges when controlling both “active” and “latent” TB disease. Patients with latent TB can not infect other people; however latent TB is a live infection that can become active TB. Active TB can be passed from person to person, and can be very serious or even fatal if not treated. In order to control TB, Grant County Health District dedicates staff hours equal to 2 full time employees identifying and treating people with latent TB. “In 2007, Grant County Health District evaluated 185 clients with latent TB,” said Peggy Grigg, Administrator/Personal Health Director, “one third of these cases were referred to their primary care providers for treatment.” Although TB is a public health priority at the local, state and federal levels the local health care community, families of the patients and the patients themselves are instrumental in controlling this deadly disease. “We could never control this disease without the commitment of the health care community, the patients, and their families,” said Peggy Grigg.

For more information on TB and what you can do to help visit <http://www.stoptb.org>.

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