

Bassett ACH Completes Contact Tracing Following TB Exposure

[5/23/2025] – Bassett Army Community Hospital (ACH) recently announced that a staff member had been diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB). Following confirmation of the diagnosis, the hospital swiftly implemented comprehensive safety measures to protect patients, staff, and the community.

At the request of Bassett ACH leadership, a team of experts from the 711th Human Performance Wing's U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) was brought in to assist with contact tracing. Working in close collaboration with Bassett's internal Public Health team, the experts identified individuals who may have been in close contact with the affected staff member.

"We are pleased to report that the contact tracing process has been successfully completed," said Col. Benjamin Donham, Medical Department Activity – Alaska commander. "All individuals identified as potentially exposed have been promptly contacted and provided with the appropriate testing and guidance."

The expertise and dedication of the USAFSAM team played a crucial role in ensuring a rapid and effective response. "We are incredibly grateful for their support," added Donham. "I also want to commend the professionalism of our entire team at Bassett, who played a critical role in managing this situation with the utmost care and effectiveness."

Bassett ACH is also taking proactive steps to prevent future occurrences. The hospital is conducting a comprehensive root cause analysis to examine the events and identify opportunities for improvement. This review will help strengthen infection control measures and ensure the continued safety of hospital staff, patients, and community.

"Patient and staff safety is our top priority," said Donham. "We are committed to learning from this experience and implementing any necessary changes to enhance our infection prevention strategies. We will continue to monitor the health of our staff and patients, remaining vigilant in our efforts to prevent the spread of infectious diseases."

Bassett ACH appreciates the ongoing support and cooperation of the community as efforts continue to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all. The hospital remains committed to prioritizing the well-being of its patients, staff, and the broader community.