



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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NEWS RELEASE:

Incident at Pleasantville Senior Comprehensive

The Ministry of Education, through a team headed by the Chief Education Officer who has responsibility for schools, is monitoring a situation at the Pleasantville Senior Comprehensive School where there is one confirmed case of tuberculosis reported in a member of the Maintenance Training and Security Company (MTS) crew. As a precaution, MTS has ordered all employees who have been in contact with the worker to undergo testing.

Today the Ministry of Health's tuberculosis specialist visited the school. Also visiting were the Chief Education Officer, the District School Supervisor and the Communications Coordinator.

On December 3, the Ministry received a report from the District School Supervisor informing that one of the MTS maintenance crew had tested positive for the tuberculosis virus. The Ministry immediately contacted the Ministry of Health and on the same day the report was investigated and a plan of action was outlined.

The plan of action includes:

- A visit by the TB Programme Officers to outline to the Principal, teachers and other school personnel, all factors involved in the communicability of tuberculosis and to allay any unwarranted fears.
- A process to identify repeated close contacts of the affected person as they will require screening

Minister of Education Hon. Esther Le Gendre has been in contact with TTUTA. She said: "This morning I spoke with TTUTA's Orville Carrington to share all information that we currently have relating to the actions taken by the Ministry and of the lead taken by the Ministry of Health to manage the situation. He has assured us of his fullest cooperation and has undertaken to keep the relevant TTUTA representatives abreast. The Ministry of Education is cooperating with the Ministry of Health to ensure that teachers, staff and students are safe."

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