



News Release

**For Immediate Release
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Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD) is pleased to announce that Julie St. Clair, RN, BSN has been elected as the President of the Illinois Council on Tuberculosis (ICOT). Julie has been employed at TCHD for 10 years and currently the Clinic Supervisor.

Julie will serve a one-year term as President of ICOT. "During my term as President, I hope to reestablish scholarship opportunities for TB education and establish an ICOT website to advance ICOT's purpose of advancing the elimination of tuberculosis," states ICOT President Julie St. Clair. Each August, the Illinois Council on Tuberculosis hosts an annual conference to increase the awareness and education of those working with TB.

Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious and potentially life-threatening disease transmitted through the air. While it can affect any part of the body (such as the brain, the kidneys or the spine), TB usually affects the lungs. Although both preventable and curable, tuberculosis once was the leading cause of death in the United States. Today in Illinois, less than 30 deaths a year are attributed to tuberculosis and the number of cases in the state has fallen more than 40 percent in the past 10 years, reaching an all-time low of 320 in 2014.

For more information on TB, visit <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/tuberculosis>. To learn more about TB testing at TCHD, call 309-929-0251.

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