Health Unit
Media Release
For immediate release: March 10, 2011

A TB Skin Test is sometimes required for work/school

Are you a student looking to go away to college or University? Are you looking for a new job, volunteering or starting a career in the Health Care or Correctional Services? You will most likely be asked to take a Mantoux or TB Skin Test.

TB stands for Tuberculosis. It is an infectious disease that usually attacks the lungs. **Although the incidence of TB is low in our area, it is important to prevent the spread of Tuberculosis and protect vulnerable people.** As a precaution to vulnerable populations, a TB skin test will be required by employers, agencies, colleges and universities.

Tuberculosis is spread from person to person through the air, when people with TB cough, laugh, sneeze, sing, or even talk. **However, to be infected with TB, a person usually has had repeated contact with someone who has TB disease.**

Signs and symptoms of TB disease include:
- Cough lasting 3 or more weeks
- Fatigue
- Night sweats
- Loss of appetite
- Fever
- Weight loss
- Positive TB Skin Test

There is a difference between being infected with TB and having TB disease. Someone who is infected with TB has the TB germs, or bacteria, in their body. The body's defences are protecting them and they are not sick. Someone with TB disease is sick and can spread the disease to other people. A person with TB disease needs to see a doctor as soon as possible.

World TB Day, **March 24th**, is designed to raise awareness that tuberculosis today remains an epidemic in much of the world, causing the deaths of several million people each year, mostly in developing countries.

Testing for TB can be done at the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit and at many doctors' offices. It will require two trips - one to have the test done and one to have the test read and interpreted two to three days later.

-30-

Contact:
Susan Healey, Communications Co-ordinator
613-345-5685 or 613-802-0550