Williamson County and Williamson County and Cities Health District
Shine Light on Tuberculosis for World TB Day

March 23, 2018 (Williamson County, TX) -- Saturday night, the dome of the Williamson County Courthouse in Georgetown, Texas, will shine red for World TB Day 2018. Tuberculosis (TB) remains the world’s leading infectious killer, being responsible for the deaths of nearly 1.7 million people each year. The Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) and Williamson County are teaming up to raise awareness regarding TB by lighting the courthouse dome red as part of the “Light up the World for TB” initiative. The courthouse is located at 710 S. Main Street, in Georgetown.

“TB is still present in our community. Although it is preventable and curable, many people in Williamson County still suffer from the disease,” said Lori Eitelbach, BSN, RN, WCCHD Tuberculosis Program Manager. “Anyone can get TB, and our current efforts to find and treat active TB disease and latent TB infection are not sufficient. Misdiagnosis of TB still exists and health care professionals often do not “think TB.” WCCHD tests and treats many people each year with the goal of preventing the spread of, and eradication of TB.

During their meeting on Tuesday, the Williamson County Commissioners Court declared Saturday, March 24, as World TB Day in Williamson County to bring attention to the issue of TB to county residents and medical professionals.

This year commemorates the 136th anniversary of Dr. Robert Koch’s announcement in 1882 of his discovery of the TB bacillus, the cause of TB. His groundbreaking research opened the way toward diagnosing and curing this disease. World TB Day is an occasion to mobilize political and social commitment for further progress towards eliminating TB as a public health burden.

“Light up the World for TB” is a global initiative by the Stop TB Partnership. It is designed to raise awareness about the devastating health, social and economic impact of tuberculosis (TB) and urge acceleration of efforts to end the global TB epidemic.

For more information on tuberculosis, go to www.cdc.gov/tb. For more information about the Williamson County and Cities Health District, visit www.wcchd.org.