

## **Prevention and treatment of tuberculosis among children and adolescents of the city of Atyrau**

Atyrau, Kazakhstan - The new project "Introduction of highly effective measures on prevention and treatment of tuberculosis among children and adolescents of Atyrau" was presented recently during the round table organized in the city of Atyrau. The goal of the project is to improve the organization of TB prevention measures among adolescents and children. The project is being implemented by the international organization Project HOPE Kazakhstan within the framework of the Social Investment Program Tengizchevroil LLP and in collaboration with the National Scientific Center for Phthisiopneumology of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The event was attended by representatives of the National Scientific Center for Phthisiopneumology, Project HOPE Kazakhstan, Tengizchevroil LLP, akimat (*regional executive body*) of Atyrau region, employees of the health care and education system.



During the meeting, the situation with tuberculosis among children and adolescents in Kazakhstan and in the Atyrau region was presented. In particular, it was noted that the incidence of tuberculosis among children (0-14 years old) and adolescents (15-17 years old) is much higher in the city of Atyrau than the national average: among adolescents and children, the incidence of tuberculosis in 2017 is 1.5 times higher than the national average.

Presenting the project “Introduction of highly effective measures on prevention and treatment of tuberculosis among children and adolescents of Atyrau”, the representative of the Project HOPE in Kazakhstan, Bakhtiyor Babamuradov noted the main objectives of the project: to ensure broad political and organizational support to the project by improving the inter-agency cooperation; to enhance potential of the health care workers and pre-school and educational institutions staff for guaranteed provision of TB prevention measures to children and adolescents; to raise community awareness on tuberculosis with focus on families in order to ensure preventive behavior, including vaccination practice. Provision of prevention measures, diagnosis and treatment will be carried out within the framework of the Guaranteed Volume of Free Medical Care of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In particular, a platform allowing broad discussion on levels of responsibility of community members on health of children and adolescents, involving parents, religious and non-governmental organizations,

paediatric polyclinics, maternity hospitals, antenatal clinics, epidemiologists and school medical assistants will be created within the project.

Within the project, much attention will be given to working with parents on their conscious behavior in regard to vaccinating children and other preventive measures.



“The project implementation will enable working out the new approaches to organizing prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis among children and adolescents, with the involvement of non-governmental, public and religious organizations, preschool and educational institutions and other partners. It is expected that the project will contribute to the implementation of TB prevention measures among the vulnerable group, as well as reduce stigma in the society towards tuberculosis”, Bakhtiyor Babamuradov said.

“We attach great importance to the implementation of such projects. Since 1993, Tengizchevroil has been implementing a number of targeted programs aimed at the development of social sphere in the Atyrau region. It is noteworthy, that we have been cooperating with the Project HOPE already from 1993, and with common effort have implemented a project on strengthening the diagnostic and therapeutic capacities of medical institutions in the Atyrau region. We are confident that this project will also be effective and will contribute to improvement of quality of health care in the city and in the region”, Bakytgul Kushekova, specialist on social investment program of the Government and Public Relations department at Tengizchevroil LLP, said.

