

OH 1.1 Occupational Health Protocol for Tuberculosis Surveillance

Policy Statement:

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) Operating Policy 75.11 requires a Tuberculosis Surveillance program by its Office of Occupational Health based on recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This policy/procedure describes the implementation of the program and applies to individuals who have the potential for occupational exposure to tuberculosis.

Scope and Distribution:

This policy applies to all covered individuals as defined in the HSCOP 75.11 and [Tuberculosis \(TB\) risk assessment worksheet](#).

TB Risk Assessment and Symptom Screening Procedure:

Screenings procedures and frequency will follow the CDC guidelines of Risk of Tuberculosis Transmission Classification for Healthcare facilities (see Appendix A: TB Risk Classification).

Baseline (preplacement) screening:

- All TTUHSC El Paso Individuals identified in (see Appendix B: Tuberculosis (TB) risk assessment worksheet) must complete the TB assessment/screening process prior to their start of employment/rotation date or within ten calendar days of employment/school. Individuals with a documented previous history of adequate treatment or prophylaxis for active TB or LTBI, will not have TB testing performed. Others will undergo testing according to prior testing as described in Appendix D: TTUHSC-EP Baseline TST Testing Table Guidelines.
- **TB testing** will be assessed either by 2 Step TST or IGRA methodology for TB screening. The latter method will be at the expense of the individual if he/she opts for it.
- Individuals identified in TB Risk Assessment with a prior positive TB test and documented normal chest radiograph do not require a repeat radiograph unless they are symptomatic or starting LTBI treatment. The local public health department should be notified immediately if TB disease is suspected.
- Individuals identified in TB Risk Assessment with LTBI and no prior treatment should be offered, and strongly encouraged to complete, treatment with a recommended regimen, by reporting and referral to the City of El Paso Department of Public Health.
<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/tb/reporting/>

Process of Identification and Notification of testing for new hire/students:

- Upon assignment of R# the Texas Tech Health Manager will send out notices to all Individuals identified and their applicable supervisor or program coordinator with a due date for submission of proof of prior TST/IGRA and chest x-ray report and other supporting documents.
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00041047.htm>
- Schools will provide the Occupational Health Office a due date for submission of documents.
- Texas Tech Health Manager will send out automatic notices of due information:
 - 30 days prior to due date
 - 15 days prior to due date
 - 7days prior to due date a daily reminder will be sent.

Evaluation and treatment of health care personnel with new TST Conversion:

- Any individual identified that converts to a positive TB skin test (TST) at the time of new hire or annual screening will have symptoms evaluation and obtain a Chest X-Ray to assess for TB disease. This will be mandatory.
- All TB skin test converters will be referred to the City of El Paso Department of Public Health for an evaluation. Compliance with this referral will be mandatory any follow-up or treatment will be coordinated and documented by the local health department.

Serial screening and testing:

- Individuals diagnosed **with LTBI** prior to or at baseline screening will be monitored with TUBERCULOSIS RISK SCREENING AND EDUCATION FORM (see Appendix C: Tuberculosis Surveillance).
- Serial screening and testing for health care personnel **without LTBI**. In the absence of known exposure or evidence of ongoing TB transmission after baseline will not be performed.
- Serial screening and testing will be done semiannually for **LARC staff** working in the BSL3 program.

Post Exposure screening and testing:

- Risk assessment and symptom screening for all individuals when an unprotected exposure to patient with active TB. For individuals with a Baseline negative 2 Step, TST will be performed when the exposure is identified. If the test is negative, another test 8-10 weeks after the last exposure will be done.
- If the first or second test is positive, the process described for Evaluation and treatment of health care personnel with TST conversion, will be followed.
- Individuals identified with documented prior LTBI or TB disease do not need another test for infection after exposure but will be evaluated by Risk assessment and symptom screen, and x-ray when needed.
- Individuals Identified or their department will notify the Occupational Health department of the exposure as soon as they aware an exposure has occurred and provide list of all employees/students/physicians with direct contact to the patient.

- Occupational Health will notify affected individuals identified of need for TST testing and follow-up as applicable.

Tuberculosis Screening Compliance with Affiliated Institution's Requirements:

- In order to fulfill duties or participate in certain educational courses identified individuals that are assigned by the University to provide care or attend training in affiliated healthcare facilities must comply with TB requirements that such facilities may impose following local, state or national regulations.

Tuberculosis Surveillance Compliance:

- The Office of Occupational Health will monitor compliance for all individuals identified at TTUHSC El Paso. The applicable supervisors and responsible parties will be notified about non-compliant individuals through Texas Tech Health Manager by e-mail and reports.
- Compliance reports for schools/GME will no longer be produced and sent out by Occupational Health Department.
 - Schools/GME will designate staff to monitor compliance on assigned group(s) of students/residents.
 - Texas Tech Health Manager will send notice to designated staff every time a notice sent to student/resident.
 - Compliance will be available on a real-time basis.

References:

Tuberculosis Screening, Testing, and Treatment of U.S. Health Care Personnel: Recommendations from the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association and CDC, 2019. *Weekly* / May 17, 2019 / 68(19); 439–443

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Health Care Settings, 2005. *MMWR* Dec. 30, 05, Vol 54 (No. – RR17)

Joint Commission Infection Prevention Standard. IC.02.03.01

<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/tb/reporting/>

https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/guidelines/pdf/appendixb_092706.pdf

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00041047.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5415a4.htm>

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/tuberculosis-tb/tb-education-training-resources/frequently-asked-questions-about#stats>

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/healthcareworkers.htm>