



CDC Updates Recommendations for TB Testing of Health Care Personnel (HCP)

On May 17, 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National TB Controllers Association (NTCA) issued updated recommendations for tuberculosis (TB) screening, testing and treatment of HCPs.

The new recommendations are summarized on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/healthcareworkers.htm>.

Here are some key changes:

- An individual TB risk assessment has been added to the baseline screening process. The assessment includes three simple questions as shown on the CDC [TB Risk Assessment](#) form.
- Annual TB testing is no longer routinely recommended for most HCPs unless they have been exposed to someone with TB disease or there is ongoing TB transmission in the health care setting where the individual works.
- HCPs diagnosed with latent TB infection (LTBI) are strongly encouraged to complete treatment for LTBI. CDC recommends shorter LTBI treatment regimens because they are more convenient and more likely to be completed.
- HCPs diagnosed with LTBI who decline treatment should be screened annually for any signs or symptoms of TB.
- HCPs should receive annual education about TB risk factors, the signs and symptoms of TB and TB infection control policies and procedures.

The recommendations update the HCP screening and testing section of the 2005 CDC Guidelines for "Preventing the Transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Health Care Settings" available at <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5417.pdf>. The other sections of the 2005 guidelines – including recommendations for facility risk assessments and infection control practices – remain in effect.

A 'companion guide' that expands on the updated recommendations for TB screening, testing and treatment of HCPs has been submitted for publication in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* sometime this fall. Once the guide is published, a link to the publication will be added to the DOH tuberculosis subpage [Testing Healthcare Workers for TB](#).

If you have any questions about TB testing or the updated guidelines, call the TB Program at 717-787-6267.