



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

Hamilton County TB Control Unit  
184 East McMillan Street, Cincinnati Ohio 45219  
(513) 946-7610 Fax (513) 946-7601

August 29, 2008

Effective 09/01/2008, Ohio Administrative Code, OAC 3701-15-04, regarding Tuberculin testing and examination for schools, is rescinded. Each school or district is now required to develop a policy for TB screening for teachers, staff and students based upon the incidence and prevalence of TB in the local community as well as the population and/or medical risk factors of the student/employee population.

Based on published reports in the medical literature, CDC surveillance data and recommendations of the Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (ACET), the Hamilton County TB Control Program recommends that only individuals in the following high risk populations receive screening for TB, using either Mantoux Skin Test 5 TU PPD or QuantiFERON blood tests<sup>1</sup>.

1. Close contacts of persons known or suspected to have TB;
2. Persons infected with HIV; Persons who inject illicit drugs, use crack cocaine or abuse alcohol;
3. Persons who have medical risk factors known to increase the risk for TB disease if infection with TB occurs, including persons with diabetes, chronic renal failure, malnutrition, congenital or acquired immunodeficiencies;
4. Infants, children and adolescents exposed to adults in high-risk settings;
5. Health-care workers who serve high-risk clients;
6. Current and past residents, employees and volunteers in high-risk congregate settings (e.g. correctional institutions, nursing home, group homes and other long-term residential facilities and shelters for the homeless);
7. Foreign-born persons, including children, recently arrived (within 5 years) from countries that have a high rate of TB (see attached list);
8. Non-tourist travelers to countries with a high rate of TB, (see attached list);

**It is the responsibility of public health and/or medical professionals to identify and screen members of the high risk populations specified above. Schools are required to appropriately identify and screen members of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> high risk groups specified above who are employed or enrolled in their settings.**

Schools may decide to adopt a more stringent screening policy, but must adhere to the minimum recommendations required in their jurisdiction.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr4906a1.htm>

**The following is the minimum required policy for TB screening in Hamilton County schools:**

1. All foreign-born adults and children **OR** only those from high incidence countries who have been in the US for 5 years or less must provide documented evidence of having a negative Mantoux Test 5 TU PPD or a negative QuantiFERON blood test, within 90 days of their first day of employment with, or enrollment in the school.
2. For a period of no more than 30 days, pending the outcome of these screening tests, a person may begin attendance or employment if documentation of a negative screening for TB symptoms is verified by a licensed physician or nurse, see attached screening tool.
3. If the TB skin test or QuantiFERON blood test is positive, the person may remain in the setting, but must provide verification of a normal chest x-ray and physician verification of the absence of communicable tuberculosis within 90 days of their first day of employment with, or enrollment in the school. **A positive skin test does not indicate active TB disease. Remove only those persons who display signs and symptoms of active TB disease, with or without a positive skin test, please refer to our symptom screening tool.**
4. Retesting is not required unless the person returns to a high-risk setting, such as a homeless shelter, prison or non-tourist travel in a high-risk country, for at least one week.
5. Any person with a documented history of tuberculosis, a positive PPD or a positive QuantiFERON test and a normal chest x-ray, must provide documented proof of the absence of TB symptoms, as determined by symptom screening by a licensed physician or nurse. **Repeated chest x-rays are not required in the absence of symptoms of tuberculosis.**
6. Individuals who travel to high-risk countries, as defined by World Health Organization Global TB Control, in a non-tourist capacity, such as a mission trip, for at least two weeks, must provide documented evidence of having a negative Mantoux Test 5 TU PPD or negative QuantiFERON test, in no less than 60 days but no more than 90 days after their return from that setting.
7. Schools who serve special populations should review the risk categories above to determine if additional screening is warranted. We are happy to provide assistance as you develop this policy for your school(s).

Please feel free to call us with your questions and comments. Thank you for your support in the effort to eliminate Tuberculosis.

Lisa Haglund, MD, FACP  
TB Program Medical Director

Pat Allingham RN, BSN, MS.  
Director, Disease Prevention

Joel Hoskins LPN  
TB Clinic Coordinator

Attachments: TB Symptom Screening Tool; List of Countries with High Rates of TB; BCG Brochure, Recommendations for Chest x-rays.