



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF HIV, STD AND TB SERVICES
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MARY E. O'DOWD, M.P.H.
Commissioner

County Superintendents of Schools
District School Superintendents
School Nurses

This is the guidance for the New Jersey Department of Education regarding Tuberculosis (TB) screening of students as a condition for admission to New Jersey schools. This guidance also addresses the screening of employees and other adults having direct contact with the student population. This guidance was developed in consultation with the New Jersey Tuberculosis Medical Advisory Board.

The current recommendation is for testing in only two groups of students;

- Those entering a school system in the United States for the first time, if born in a high TB incidence country (**not** listed on page 3 of the guidance), and
- Those transferring to the New Jersey school system directly from a high TB incidence country (**not** listed on page 3 of the guidance).

NOTE: An interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test or a Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST) is acceptable for tuberculosis screening in schools.

A “positive” IGRA or “10mm” or greater induration on a TST shall be considered a “significant reaction” and requires a subsequent medical evaluation to rule out active disease. Any person with symptoms of pulmonary TB should be evaluated regardless the result of the IGRA or TST and excluded from school until disease is ruled out or they are no longer considered infectious, as indicated in writing by a licensed physician.

Reporting Requirements

Schools are **no longer** required to submit the “Annual Report of TB Testing in Schools” (TB-57 form) to the New Jersey Department of Health, TB Program. **The TB-57 information should be kept up-to-date and onsite at each school. A copy of the form should be sent to the county superintendent and the local health department or TB Control Agency.** The report should only include testing done during the current school year (2014–2015). The TB-57 form and instructions are available online at the TB website.

It remains the responsibility of the school nurse to gather the chest X-ray results and treatment recommendations for latent TB infection prescribed by a private physician or local chest clinic, and to retain this information on site. The Symptom Assessment for Pulmonary TB form, TB-5, is located on the TB website.

In addition, the Office of the Attorney General has advised that religious exemption cannot be denied for TB testing in schools. See the Religious Exemption-School TB Testing/Symptom Assessment Form, TB-8, for alternate testing protocol if religious exemption is claimed by a student or employee required to be tested under this guidance.

All tuberculosis forms can be found on the TB Website, under the "FORMS" tab:

<http://web.doh.state.nj.us/apps2/forms/subforms.aspx?pro=aids#tb>

The submission schedule for reporting information on the TB-57 form is as follows:

<u>Tuberculosis Testing Outcomes</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
No TB testing required & No "Significant" Reactors Identified	1/15/2015
TB Testing done, "Significant Reactors" Identified	3/15/2015

Please note if you have any questions concerning the application of the TB testing guidance, please call the TB Program at (609) 826-4878.

Sincerely,



Frank Romano, MPH
Tuberculosis Program Manager (Acting)
Division of HIV, STD and TB Services

Cc: Francesca Esposito, MPH, Tuberculosis Program
Cc: Susan Martz, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Education
Cc: Christene Dewitt-Parker, MSN, CSN, RN, Coordinator of School Health, Department of Education

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