

September 22, 2016

Subject: Eligibility for publically funded Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) and testing policy in Non-Hospital Settings

Preamble:

The Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST) is the standard method of determining whether a person is infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

The following guidance is based on the recommendations from the Canadian Tuberculosis Standards 7th edition. It is not a comprehensive guidance on clinical or occupational management of TB infection and disease. The relevant occupational and institutional policies should be consulted.

Products supplied by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health are provided for use in Public Health programs only and are not intended to meet third party requests including, but not limited to, educational, occupational or travel requirements. TST for these purposes are generally available from family physicians, nurse practitioner, travel clinic (who may charge a fee).

Recommendations for TST testing in non-hospital settings

Setting	Testing recommendations	Publicly funded
<p>Long-term care facilities (LTCF)</p>	<p>Staff: At the time of hiring all employees and regular volunteers* should have a two-step TST unless they have documented results of prior two-step tests. In the latter situation, a single step test should be sufficient. Annual screening of staff and regular volunteers* is recommended if the annual TST sero-conversion rate in that institution exceeds 0.5%.</p> <p>Residents: Routine baseline TST testing of LTCF residents is not generally recommended. If an individual resident is at increased risk of TB (e.g. individuals from a high TB incidence country, Canadian individuals residing or having resided in communities with high incidence of TB, former urban poor/homeless, HIV infected etc.), then a baseline two-step TST should be performed. Annual TST screening is not necessary for</p>	<p>Staff -no</p> <p>Residents -yes</p>

	LTCF residents.	
Daycare Facilities	<p>Staff: TST screening is recommended for employees or regular volunteers*of day care centers who may be at risk of exposure to TB infection. At risk individuals that should be screened include: all individuals born or having resided in countries with high TB incidence and who arrived in Canada in the last 5 years; Canadian individuals residing or having resided in communities with high incidence of TB. A one step TST should usually be used for screening. Annual or periodic testing is not required.</p> <p>Children: Routine TST is not recommended</p>	<p>Staff – no</p> <p>Volunteers-No</p>
Correctional Facilities	<p>Staff: It is recommended that staff of correctional facilities should have a two-step TST at the time of hire unless they have documented results of prior two-step tests. In the latter situation, a single step test should be sufficient. Repeat single step TST annually if previous test was negative.</p> <p>Inmates: Inmates who will likely <u>stay for 1 year or longer</u> in any correctional facility should be screened for Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) at admission using a two-step TST and one step TST annually thereafter if previous test was negative. For inmates who will likely stay for less than 1 year in New Brunswick provincial correctional facilities, TST screening for LTBI should be considered for those at high-risk (e.g. HIV infected, immigrants from high TB incidence country), or if risk of TB infection and disease in the facility is high (e.g. any case of infectious TB within the last year; many inmates and/or employees with significant risk factors for TB, the annual TST sero-conversion rate in staff working at that institution exceeds 0.5%).</p>	<p>Staff- no</p> <p>Inmates –yes</p>

<p>Other</p>	<p>Individuals with other significant risk factors for developing active TB should be screened by their health care providers, irrespective of employment. In New Brunswick IGRA test may be used to confirm positive TST prior to decision for LTBI treatment, particularly if a pre-test probability of positive TST test is low. Individuals who have a documented evidence of TST sero-conversion do not need a repeat TST test.</p>	<p>Others –yes</p>
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***Regular Volunteers:** TST is recommended for the individual’s protection, as well as for the individuals they are caring for.

Note: volunteers are defined as those expecting to work 150 hours/year or more (approximately one half day per week); if working less than this then no TB skin testing is recommended.

****Students:** TST recommendations as per institutional or clinical setting policy should be followed.