

GENERAL MEDICAL 8.0

Occupational Health Services -- 8.2

Tuberculosis Surveillance of Employees -- 8.2.a

Date Issued: December 31, 1998

Date Last Revised: March 23, 2011

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy R. Taylor, DrPH, MSN, RN". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

By: Cathy R. Taylor, DrPH, MSN, RN
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Health Services

POLICY

All employees, including part-time, contractual, and volunteers who have patient contact and are at risk of significant exposure, shall be screened for tuberculosis. The Regional Health Officer shall determine the risk of effective exposure. Other employees do not need to be screened for tuberculosis unless they develop persistent pulmonary symptoms or there is contact to an infectious case of tuberculosis. No employee should be denied screening if requested.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to Local Health Department, Regional and Central Office personnel.

PURPOSE

To protect the health of all people receiving services from public health departments.

PROCEDURE

At the time of employment, or when employees are assigned to an area where they will have patient contact which could result in a significant exposure shall receive a tuberculin skin test. The skin test may be given at the health department at no cost to the employee. Employees identified as positive reactors at the time of employment or assignment to an area where they will have patient contact should receive a chest x-ray

and be considered for preventive therapy. Employees who have patient contact and have a negative tuberculin test must have a tuberculin test at least annually as long as the skin test remains negative. Employees who convert from negative to positive at any time after the initial test must be evaluated by the Regional or Metropolitan Tuberculosis Control Physician. If treatment of disease or preventive therapy is indicated, it should be prescribed and monitored as with any other patient.

Employees that have satisfactorily completed a course of treatment or preventive therapy, or those who can document a positive test of two (2) or more years of duration, or those with persistent pulmonary symptoms, should consult the TB Guidelines for management.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

Tuberculosis Guidelines

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY

Office of the Medical Director, Bureau of Health Services, (615)741-7305