



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES EMPLOYEE TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING AND TREATMENT

Table of Contents

PROCEDURE.....	2
I. Discussion	2
II. Follow-Up	2
III. Treatment	2
IV. Classification of the Tuberculin Skin Test Reaction	3
V. Documentation	3
VI. Standing Orders for Administering TB Skin Test (PPD) to DOC Employees.....	3
REFERENCES	4





PROCEDURE

I. Discussion

- A. New employees in the Department of Corrections are required to receive a tuberculin skin test (TST) at the time of employment and annually thereafter (unless there is a history of a previous positive test) and complete the questionnaire on the Tuberculous Skin Test form. (See page 3 for the standing order signed by the Chief Physician).
- B. These guidelines are written in accordance with the latest recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), policies and guidelines from the Virginia Department of Health and the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA).
- C. New employees who have tested positive in the past should supply written documentation clearing them to work in the facility subsequently, they only need to complete the questionnaire on the Tuberculous Skin Test Form (see page 3).
- D. Once an employee has tested positive and has a negative chest x-ray, further chest x-rays are not indicated if there are no symptoms of the disease.

II. Follow-Up

- A. Employees who test positive to the TST should be referred to the facility Human Resources Office & to their personal physician or local department of health for chest x-ray and statement of clearance to work afterward, will only need an annual TB symptoms screening.
- B. Employees with documented allergic reactions to TST solution should be referred to their personal physician or local department of health for chest x-ray and statement of clearance to work afterward will only need an annual TB symptoms screening.
- C. Employees with documented negative TST tests should be tested annually, according to a schedule set by the Health Authority, as long as negative results are obtained.

III. Treatment

- A. Medical treatment for employees who test positive is left to the personal physician or the department of health.
- B. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends preventive therapy for employees of correctional facilities who test positive since corrections is considered a high risk environment for TB.
- C. Skin test interpretation is determined by the measurement in millimeters of induration and the person's risk of being infected.





IV. Classification of the Tuberculin Skin Test Reaction

<p>An induration of 5 or more millimeters is considered positive in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -HIV-infected persons -A recent contact of a person with TB disease -Persons with fibrotic changes on chest radiograph consistent with prior TB -Patients with organ transplants -Persons who are immunosuppressed for other reasons (e.g., taking the equivalent of >15 mg/day of prednisone for 1 month or longer, taking TNF-a antagonists) 	<p>An induration of 10 or more millimeters is considered positive in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Recent immigrants (< 5 years) from high-prevalence countries -Injection drug users -Residents and employees of high-risk congregate settings -Mycobacteriology laboratory personnel -Persons with clinical conditions that place them at high risk -Children < 4 years of age - Infants, children, and adolescents exposed to adults in high-risk categories 	<p>An induration of 15 or more millimeters is considered positive in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any person, including persons with no known risk factors for TB. However, targeted skin testing programs should only be conducted among high-risk groups.
--	--	---

V. Documentation

- A. All medical documentation on employees is filed in the employee's medical file in the Human Resources Office (HRO) by HRO personnel. No medical information on employees should be kept outside of the Human Resources Office.
- B. The safety officer should be notified when an employee is exposed to anyone with a known case of active tuberculosis (TB), and that employee subsequently develops a tuberculosis infection, as evidenced by a positive skin test or diagnosis by a physician or other licensed health care professional.
- C. All employee medical information is confidential.

VI. Standing Orders for Administering TB Skin Test (PPD) to DOC Employees

- A. Purpose
To identify those employees who have TB infection or TB disease upon employment in DOC, to comply with the COV 54.1-3408 and in accordance with policies and guidelines established by the Virginia Department of Health 32.1-50.2.
- B. Standing Order
Under this standing order, the Medical Director authorizes registered nurses or licensed practical nurses under the immediate and direct supervision of a registered nurse to administer tuberculin skin test (PPD) to employees.

Signature on File **Dr. Paul Targonski**





REFERENCES

Operating Procedure 102.5, *Staff Medical Screening and Physical Examination*

Operating Procedure 740.1, *Infectious Disease Control*

[MMWR Prevention and Control of Tuberculosis in Correctional and Detention Facilities: Recommendations from CDC June 7, 2006:](#)

[Recording Criteria for Work-related Tuberculosis Cases - 1904.11](#)

