



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

Operating Policy and Procedure

HSCEP OP: 75.11C, Health Surveillance Program for TTUHSC El Paso – Tuberculosis Surveillance

1. Reference(s):

- Tuberculosis (TB) surveillance for covered individuals is based on current recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Health-Care Settings

2. Baseline (preplacement) screening and testing.

- All TTUHSC El Paso employees, students, volunteers should have baseline TB screening, including an individual risk assessment, which is necessary for interpreting any test result.

3. New Employee, Student, Volunteer

- New TTUHSC El Paso employees, students, and volunteers must complete the TB screening process prior to their start of employment or rotation date or within ten calendar days of employment/school. Supervisors will assure this is completed.
 - a. All new individuals who do not have a documented negative TST during the preceding 12 months must have a two-step. Prior to testing proof of negative TST within preceding 12 months must be provided to Occupational Health (OH). Individuals with a previous history of a positive TST or documentation of adequate treatment or prophylaxis for active TB will not have the TST.
 - b. TST application and interpretation will follow CDC guidelines.

Individuals with a baseline positive TST result should receive one chest radiograph to exclude a diagnosis of TB disease.

4. Annual Requirements

- All covered individuals must complete the Tuberculosis Screening Form and Respiratory Medical Evaluation Questionnaire annually, as per the facility TB Risk Assessment. The Occupational Health (OH) Office electronically sends the forms to the individual during the month of hire or matriculation. The forms must be completed and returned to OH within the month of receipt.
- Laboratory Animal Resources Center (LARC) employees, students, and volunteers will be tested per department protocol. LARC will send Occupational Health list of individuals to be tested prior to TST testing.

5. Post exposure to patients with active tuberculosis

- Individuals or their department will notify the OH Department of the exposure as soon as they aware an exposure has occurred and provide list of all employees, students, and physicians with direct contact to the patient.
- OH will notify affected individuals of need for TST testing and follow-up as applicable.
- OH will perform TST for individuals who have unprotected exposure to patients with active TB, for baseline with a second test 8-10 weeks after end of exposure. Further testing may be required according to prior TST status.

6. TST Conversion

- Any individual that converts to a positive TB skin test (TST)/Blood Test (QFT/TSpot) at the time of new hire or annual screening will be required to obtain a Chest X-Ray.
- All TB skin test converters will be referred to the City of El Paso Department of Public Health for an evaluation. Any follow-up or treatment will be coordinated and documented by the local health department.

7. Cost Responsibilities

- Costs for baseline, annual TB skin tests, and Chest X-Ray will be covered by the OH Department. Individuals that request an alternative TB testing method will bear the cost of this test.