



California School Employee Tuberculosis (TB) Risk Assessment User Guide

(for pre-K, K-12 schools and community college employees, volunteers and contractors)

Background

California law requires that school staff working with children and community college students be free of infectious tuberculosis (TB). These updated laws reflect current federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for targeted TB testing. Enacted laws, AB 1667, effective on January 1, 2015, SB 792 on September 1, 2016, and SB 1038 on January 1, 2017, require a TB risk assessment be administered and if risk factors are identified, a TB test and examination be performed by a health care provider to determine that the person is free of infectious tuberculosis. The use of the California School Employee TB Risk Assessment and the Certificate of Completion provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and California TB Controllers Association (CTCA) are also required.

AB 1667 impacted the following groups on 1/1/2015:

1. Persons employed by a school district, or employed under contract, in a certificated or classified position (California Education Code, Section 49406)
2. Persons employed, or employed under contract, by a private or parochial elementary or secondary school, or any nursery school (California Health and Safety Code, Sections 121525 and 121555).
3. Persons providing for the transportation of pupils under authorized contract in public, charter, private or parochial elementary or secondary schools (California Education Code, Section 49406 and California Health and Safety Code, Section 121525).
4. Persons volunteering with frequent or prolonged contact with pupils (California Education Code, Section 49406 and California Health and Safety Code, Section 121545).

SB 792 impacted the following group on 9/1/2016:

Persons employed as a teacher in a child care center (California Health and Safety Code Section 1597.055).

SB 1038 impacted the following group on 1/1/2017:

Persons employed by a community college district in an academic or classified position (California Education Code, Section 87408.6).

Testing for latent TB infection (LTBI)

Because an interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test has increased specificity for TB infection in persons vaccinated with BCG, IGRA is preferred over the tuberculin skin test (TST) in these persons. Most persons born outside the United States have been vaccinated with BCG.

Previous or inactive tuberculosis

Persons with a previous chest radiograph showing findings consistent with previous or inactive TB should be tested for LTBI. In addition to LTBI testing, evaluate for active TB disease.

Negative test for LTBI does not rule out TB disease

It is important to remember that a negative TST or IGRA result does not rule out active TB disease. In fact, a negative TST or IGRA in a person with active TB can be a sign of extensive disease and poor outcome.

Symptoms of TB should trigger evaluation for active TB disease

Persons with any of the following symptoms that are otherwise unexplained should be medically evaluated: cough for more than 2-3 weeks, fevers, night sweats, weight loss, hemoptysis.

Most patients with LTBI should be treated

Because testing of persons at low risk of LTBI should not be done, persons that test positive for LTBI should generally be treated once active TB disease has been ruled out. However, clinicians should not be compelled to treat low risk persons with a positive test for LTBI.

Emphasis on short course for treatment of LTBI

Shorter regimens for treating LTBI have been shown to be more likely to be completed and the 3 month regimen has been shown to be as effective as 9 months of isoniazid. Use of these shorter regimens is preferred in most patients. Drug-drug interactions and contact to drug resistant TB are typical reasons these regimens cannot be used.

Repeat risk assessment and testing

If there is a documented history of positive TB test or TB disease, then a symptom review and chest x-ray should be performed at initial hire. Once a person has a documented positive test for TB infection that has been followed by a chest x-ray (CXR) that was determined to be free of infectious TB, the TB risk assessment (and repeat x-rays) is no longer required.

Repeat risk assessments should occur every four years (unless otherwise required) to identify any additional risk factors, and TB testing based on the results of the TB risk assessment (en) 1 Re

California School Employee

California School Employee Tuberculosis Risk Assessment Frequently Asked Questions

Who developed the school staff and volunteer TB risk assessment?

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Tuberculosis Controllers Association (CTCA) jointly developed the TB risk assessment. The risk assessment was adapted from a form developed by Minnesota Department of Health TB Prevention and Control Program and the Centers for

