

Department of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance

Policy Statement

Revised – 10/18/11

Title:	Screening Health Care Workers for Tuberculosis in Department of Health Licensed Residential Treatment Facilities, Hospitals, and Ambulatory Surgical Facilities.	Number: CHS-08-26-19
References:	WAC 246-337-050, WAC 246-337-060, WAC 246-320-156, WAC 246-322-050, WAC 246-324-050, and WAC 246-330-140 Tuberculosis Screening, Testing, and Treatment of U.S. Health Care Personnel: Recommendations from the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association and CDC, 2019	
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Supercedes:	N/A	
Approved By:	Kristin Peterson, Assistant Secretary	

It is the Department of Health’s (department) policy to allow department licensed residential treatment facilities, hospitals, and ambulatory surgical facilities, to follow the [updated 2019 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidelines](#) regarding tuberculosis (TB) testing of health care workers **or** the employee TB testing guidelines cited in the following facilities licensing rules: WAC 246-337-050, WAC 246-337-060, WAC 246-320-156, WAC 246-322-050, WAC 246-324-050, and WAC 246-330-140.

The 2019 CDC recommendations for testing U.S. health care personnel are an update to the previous 2005 guidelines and now include:

- 1) TB screening with an individual risk assessment and symptom evaluation at baseline (preplacement);
- 2) Baseline TB testing with an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) or a tuberculin skin test (TST) for persons without documented prior TB disease or latent TB infection (LTBI);
- 3) No routine serial TB testing at any interval after baseline in the absence of a known exposure or ongoing transmission;
- 4) Encouragement of treatment for all health care personnel with untreated LTBI, unless treatment is contraindicated;
- 5) Annual symptom screening for health care personnel with untreated LTBI; and
- 6) Annual TB education of all health care personnel¹.

¹ Sosa LE, Njie GJ, Lobato MN, et al. Tuberculosis Screening, Testing, and Treatment of U.S. Health Care Personnel: Recommendations from the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association and CDC,

All other aspects of the 2005 CDC guidelines were included in the updated 2019 CDC guidelines, such as facility risk assessments to help guide infection control policies and procedures.

The department allows licensed facilities to follow the 2019 CDC recommendations or the guidelines currently referenced in WAC.