

Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis*, a slow-growing bacteria that grows best in areas of the body that have an abundance of blood and oxygen. For that reason, it is most often found in the lungs. TB can damage a person's lungs or other parts of the body and cause serious illness. TB is spread through the air when a person with TB disease coughs, sneezes or speaks, sending germs into the air.

In British Columbia, there are approximately 300 new cases of active TB disease per year. Maintaining appropriate awareness of TB among health care professionals and child care providers is critical to reducing transmission and initiating early prevention and treatment. Screening refers to a process that attempts to discover conditions suitable for early preventative or curative measures. The goal is to prevent transmission of TB to staff and persons in care. The Tuberculosis Manual by the Ministry of Health/British Columbia Center for Disease Control is regularly updated to ensure the guidelines reflect current practice and is located at this website:

- <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/tuberculosis>

Licensees are encouraged to check the website frequently for updated changes to the Tuberculosis Manual.

Licensed Child Care Facilities:

Routine tuberculosis screening is generally not recommended for employees of child care facilities or those parents ordinarily present at licensed child care facilities, except those working in facilities located in indigenous communities.

A review of provincial TB cases shows that no child had been infected as a result of exposure to a child care worker in non-indigenous communities in BC within the last ten years. Screening child care employees is logistically difficult and can be costly due to the large turnover of employees. Historically, high rates of latent TB infection and active TB disease in indigenous communities have created an environment at increased risk for the development and transmission of TB. The incidence of TB disease in some indigenous communities is greater than that of Canadian-born/non-indigenous persons. These recommendations may be changed at the discretion of the local Medical Health Officer depending on local context and in consultation with indigenous partners, including the First Nations Health Authority.

Licensed Residential Care Facilities:

Routine tuberculosis screening is required for all health care workers present in a licenced care facility.

Persons being admitted to a licensed community care facility may need to be assessed for their risk of tuberculosis and have a TB screening form completed. Given person in care population characteristics, they may not be required to have a TB test completed.

All records and chest x-ray reports should be kept for as long as the person is in care of the facility or if the individual is an employee of the facility. Screening results for all persons in care and all employees should be

available to be reviewed by Licensing staff. If the licensed care facility is required to have a TB screen, please refer to the Tuberculosis Manual or connect with your Licensing Officer for more information.

Tuberculosis Manual

For information on who may conduct a TB screening, please visit the link below and refer to Section 4(b) - TB Screening DST.

- <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/tuberculosis>

TB Screening Form

To complete TB screening, please refer to the form located at the following link:

- https://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Forms/TB/CPS_TB_ScreeningForm.pdf

The TB Screening Infosheet was developed in consultation with Island Health's Communicable Disease Program.