



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

April 3, 2017

MEDICAL ADVISORY: EVALUATING TUBERCULOSIS CONTACTS
EXPOSED AT WAIPAHAU HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) TB Control Branch has identified an individual with pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) who has potentially exposed persons primarily at Waipahu High School. DOH has assessed the risk of TB transmission. We recommend *only those whom DOH has identified* as having a risk of exposure should be evaluated and tested for TB.

DOH has delivered letters to all employees and parents at Waipahu H.S. notifying them whether they or their child, respectively, were exposed and recommending whether TB screening is needed. Currently, DOH has identified approximately 135 individual contacts who will require TB evaluation. For these persons, DOH will begin screening and administering TB tests at the school on April 7, 2017. However, families may choose instead to be tested at your office. DOH recommends the following to evaluate persons who received a letter indicating exposure:

If NO history of prior positive TB skin test

- Screen for signs and symptoms of active TB disease.¹
- Administer a TB skin test.
- Read the TB skin test 48–72 hours later.
- If the TB skin test is positive (≥ 5 mm induration for persons recently exposed to active TB disease) **or if symptoms of TB disease present**, refer for chest X-ray.
- If the TB skin test is negative (< 5 mm induration), administer a repeat TB skin test after May 3, 2017. (More than 8 weeks after last possible exposure.)
- Fax results to DOH TB Control Branch at 832-5846.

If history of prior positive TB skin test

- Screen for signs and symptoms of active TB disease.
- Refer for chest X-ray.
- Fax results to DOH TB Control Branch at 832-5846.

Please be aware that persons who were NOT identified as contacts also received letters explaining testing was NOT recommended. Nevertheless, they may seek TB testing from you. If you decide to test, a TB skin test is considered positive at ≥ 10 mm induration for this group.

¹<http://health.hawaii.gov/tb/frequently-asked-questions-2/>

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Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter and for partnering with us to ensure a safe and healthy community. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Elizabeth MacNeill at the State TB Control Branch, 832-5707.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth MacNeill



Elizabeth MacNeill, MD, MPH
Acting TB Control Branch Chief

Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP
State Epidemiologist
Hawaii Department of Health

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