



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

March 14, 2018

MEDICAL ADVISORY: UPDATE TO MANDATED TUBERCULOSIS DISEASE
REPORTING AND CLEARANCE

Dear Healthcare Provider:

Effective Monday, March 19, 2018, the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) is moving to a risk-based tuberculosis (TB) screening process with revisions to HAR 11-164.2, the rules mandating TB disease reporting and clearance requirements. This process aligns with the changing epidemiology of TB disease in the United States and Hawaii and is consistent with current national medical and public health recommendations. Persons with TB *risks* will need testing, while those with TB *symptoms* will need testing PLUS a chest x-ray. When testing is indicated, DOH will now accept Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) test results or any future FDA-approved and CDC-recommended test in lieu of a TB skin test. Please note IGRA tests are NOT presently approved for children under age 5 years. DOH will only be offering the TB skin test for clearance purposes.

Although healthcare workers and patients admitted to long term care should continue to undergo TB testing, students enrolling in childcare, school, or college and employees of these institutions, as well as food handlers may be screened using the new TB Risk Assessment for Adults and Children form.¹ This will allow DOH and community providers to focus testing and prevention efforts on those at greatest risk of TB exposure and disease.

The major rule changes are summarized below.

- For specific categories of persons:
 - Healthcare workers/residents of long-term care: No changes except other FDA-approved, CDC-recommended TB tests will be accepted in lieu of a TB skin test.
 - Schools, colleges, and daycares: Students and employees should undergo TB Risk Assessment Screen.
 - Food handlers: Should undergo TB Risk Assessment Screen.
- TB testing required for those with positive result on the TB Risk Assessment Screen.
- Any FDA-approved, CDC-recommended TB test is acceptable.
- Chest x-ray required for a new positive test or symptoms.
- Symptom screen may be used for annual clearance for those with history of previous positive test.

¹ TB Risk Assessment and TB Clearance forms may be found in the updated "DOH TB Clearance Manual," which is available at <https://health.hawaii.gov/tb/files/2018/03/Hawaii-TB-Clearance-Manual-10-30-17.pdf>.

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We encourage all providers to review the manual and note all changes for TB screening and testing in Hawaii. Please contact Dr. Elizabeth MacNeill at elizabeth.macneill@doh.hawaii.gov or call (808) 832-5707 if you have any questions or concerns.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to help protect Hawaii's residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth MacNeill, MD, MPH
Chief, TB Control Branch
Hawaii Department of Health



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

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