

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TB CONTROL PROGRAM

## ***M. TUBERCULOSIS* INFECTION TESTS REQUIREMENTS**

### **Who Needs *M. tuberculosis* Infection Tests?**

1. All Kindergarten students must be tested within 1 year prior to the date of school entry.  
*This does not affect preschool or day care as these settings have their own TB screening testing requirements.*
2. Those students in Grades 1-12 who have never attended any school in California.  
*Please Note:*
  - a. *This test could have been performed at any previous time.*
  - b. *If the student previously attended any California school (public, private, or parochial), the student is exempt from this requirement.*

### **What Does a Student Bring to School? \***

A written form from the doctor or health facility with the following information:

1. **Type of test.** Mantoux TB Skin Test (TST), the Interferon-Gamma Release Assays, such as QuantiFERON TB Tests (QFT) /T-Spot are acceptable. Multiple puncture tests, the indeterminate result of QFT, and the borderline result of T-Spot are not acceptable.
2. **Test Results.**
  - a. The test reading must be done by a health care provider.
  - b. A reading of “negative result” is acceptable if the induration of Mantoux TB Skin Test (TST) is less than 10 mm in diameter, or if the IGRA result is “Negative”.
  - c. If the Mantoux TB Skin Test (TST) result is 10 mm or more of induration, or the IGRA result is “Positive”, then written indication of x-ray date and/or statement that the child is free of communicable TB is required.
3. **Signature of doctor or designee.**

\* California State Immunization Record contains all of the above information.

**Please Note:**

1. A chest x-ray instead of a screening test is not acceptable unless the doctor medically waives the latent TB infection test.
2. A student with a history of BCG vaccination must have a screening test unless the doctor certifies in writing that the child is free of communicable tuberculosis.
3. A child age 12 or older may sign his/her own consent for the latent TB infection test.
4. The latent TB infection test should be given prior to, or simultaneously with, any measles containing vaccine. If a measles containing vaccine has already been given, the TB screening test should be deferred for 1 month as this may cause a false negative result. The child should be admitted to school conditionally for that month.
5. A child with a positive screening test can be admitted to school conditionally for up to 20 school days while awaiting chest x-ray clearance.

For questions, please contact: “Nurse-on-Phones”, at the Tuberculosis Control Program, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County, (213) 744-6160.