



Guidance for Tuberculosis Screening, Testing, and Treatment for Certified EMS Providers

Background:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations have moved away from annual Tuberculosis (TB) testing of healthcare workers with proper administrative, environmental, and PPE controls in place. However, some professions are restricted by licensure rules in following this recommendation. EMS licensing rules do not include any requirements for TB screening, testing, and treatment. However, licensed EMS services conduct annual TB tests on certified EMS personnel under the assumption that there are regulations that require it.

This guidance has been developed to clarify the requirements for TB screening, testing, and treatment for certified EMS providers to reduce the burden of unnecessary testing and align with CDC recommendations.

Licensed EMS services may follow the updated [2019 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidelines](#) regarding tuberculosis (TB) testing of health care workers. For more information around each of the points listed below refer to the updated 2019 CDC guidelines.

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

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.

ⁱ Sosa LE, Njie GH, 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 recommendations or the guidelines currently referenced in WAC.