



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Clinical Prevention Services
Provincial TB Services
655 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4

www.bccdc.ca

Date: December 19, 2024 **Administrative Circular: 2024:21**

Attn: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: **Update to the Communicable Disease Control Manual –
Chapter 4: Tuberculosis (TB)**

CDC Manual-Chapter 4: Tuberculosis

If printing, please remove and replace the following:

- Section 4(b): TB Screening DST
- Appendix A: Tuberculin Skin Testing Procedure
- Appendix B: Infection Prevention and Control

Overview of Changes

The sections were updated to reflect current and evidence-informed best practices clearly, consistently, and concisely. Practice recommendations are in alignment with the [Canadian TB Standards, 8th edition \(CTBS\)](#)

Section 4(b): TB Screening DST

- **Table 5:** Added Exception for IMVAMUNE® as a non-replicating live attenuated vaccine.
- **Table 9: TB Screening for Congregate Settings** – Updated Practice Statement to emphasize that the priority of screening in this context is to rule out TB disease. Any further TB care provided should NOT delay entry into a facility. Removed TST requirement for those under 60 entering adult residential care facility.
- **Table 10: TB Screening for People Living with HIV** – Updated Practice Statement; updated criteria for when annual risk assessment is indicated, including the definition of “ongoing risk of exposure”; and tailored screening recommendations based on whether a person is taking antiretroviral treatment.
- **Table 11: TB Screening for contacts to infectious TB disease within the past 2 years** - tailored screening recommendations based on whether a PLWH is taking antiretroviral treatment, including details on indications for CXR and sputum. **Corresponding changes to Section 8: Assessment and Follow-Up of TB Contacts will be made at a future date.**

Appendix A: Tuberculin Skin Testing Procedure

- **Anaphylaxis:** Expanded content on acute allergic reactions, temporally associated with administration of Tubersol® and added link to Provincial Clinical DST: Anaphylaxis: Initial Emergency Treatment by Nurses (Adult & Pediatric).
- **Table A-1:** Updated live vaccine content for oral polio vaccine and IMVAMUNE® as a non-replicating live attenuated vaccine.
- **Administering the TST:** Specified left forearm as preferred site and new tip to ask for assistance after 2 unsuccessful attempts at TST plant.
- **Reading the TST:** New tips for palpating induration and the pen method for marking induration.
- **Documenting the TST Reading:** Reformatted into a table and how to document the measurement of induration.

Appendix B: Infection Prevention and Control

- **NEW** BCCDC guideline style applied to section.
- Updated content on discontinuing isolation criteria to align with the CTBS, specifically in **Table B-1: Recommendations on discontinuation of airborne precautions/home isolation.**
- Updated content for clarity and emphasis, which included the addition of two new Practice Statements, on the harms of prolonged isolation and the impact of effective therapy on infectiousness.
- Updated Practitioner Alerts related to negative sputum smear status; clients discharged home with medications; and sputum specimens remaining culture positive at 4 months.

NOTE: Supporting educational materials summarizing the updates to Appendix B will be released in January 2025.

If you have questions about this manual update, please contact Provincial TB Services Nurse Educators, Maria MacDougall and Jessica Harper at bccdtbeducationteam@bccdc.ca.

Sincerely,



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pc:

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