BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

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Date: July 7, 2026 **Administrative Circular: 2026:12**

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

Re: Update to the Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter 4: Tuberculosis

CDC Manual-Chapter 4: Tuberculosis
If printing, please remove and replace the following:

- Section 4(b): TB Screening DST

Overview of Changes
This update focuses on revisions to TB screening guidance to improve clarity, equity, and alignment with current standards.

Of note, congregate settings guidance clearly distinguishes between TB disease screening (required) and TB infection testing (generally not required), supported by a new tool and revised tables. This update reflects work completed by a provincial working group to support licensed care programs guided by the Residential Care Regulation, Part 5, Div 1, Section 49: *(1) A licensee must require all persons admitted to a community care facility to comply with the province's immunization and tuberculosis control programs.* TSTs in these sites are generally not provided by Public Health. Guidance for Correctional facilities is addressed separately since they have distinct policies.

Additional updates include revised language, corrected typos, references and hyperlinks.

Two new resources were developed:

- BCCDC High TB Incidence Country List – based off the WHO TB incidence data
- TB screening in congregate settings: what you need to know – to support knowledge translation of TB screening recommendations for providers working in congregate settings. A letter to support communication of this new resource can be found here.

Section 4(b): TB Screening DST – Key Updates
Screening Indications

- Restored content on eligibility for publicly-funded testing and fee-based testing
- Aligned content with Indigenous Peoples section by including footnote acknowledging historic and ongoing impacts of colonialism on TB risk amongst Indigenous peoples.

Table 5: Special considerations for TST or IGRA testing

- To align with Canadian TB Standards Appendix A.3.2, updated TST conversion window period for TB exposure from 2 to 3-8 weeks. This does not impact clinical decision-making since it is the 8-week parameter that has implications on the timing of testing.

Risk Factors section:

- Corrected Practice Statement and Table 1 footnote: Included "In general" and added a country with a TB rate of 50/100 000 "or higher"

TST documentation:

- Added a link to Appendix A and the TST Quick Reference
- Added structured **DO and DO NOT** guidance to align with Appendix A

Table 8: Clients with medical risk factors

- Refined language and formatting to improve clarity

Congregate Settings: Table 9a Practice Statement & Table 9a

- New title for Practice Statement and Table as section divided into 9a and 9b; Table 9a supports licensing requirements for those under Residential Care Regulation
- Language revised to provide clarity on screening for TB disease (required) and testing for TB infection (not required).
- Congregate settings listed by Ministry of Health names and links to provincial websites/definitions, as possible
- Added link to new resource: TB screening in congregate settings: what you need to know

Correctional Settings: Table 9b Practice Statement & Table 9b

- New Table 9b: Correctional facilities have different policies than other congregate settings (9a) and are not covered under same regulation
- Updated language: Use "at or after admission" language to reflect timing of care in these settings, use provincial vs federal language (instead of length of sentence) as requested by partners
- Added bullet and link to Figure 1: Management of clients with a high degree of clinical evidence for TB disease and a new column for sputum collection indicatons

Indigenous Peoples

- Updated language to clarify that some First Nations communities have increased TB rates and enhanced screening; updated definition of who is eligible for TB screening at no-cost by removing "annual" as a limit and added "regardless of place of residence or reason for testing".

HCP Resources - updated links with new versions

- BCCDC Mycobacteriology/tuberculosis requisition correction from 2019 to 2024 version
- The Online TST/IGRA Interpreter, Version 4.0

If you have questions about this manual update, please contact Provincial TB Services Senior Practice Lead, Yenlinh Chung at yenlinh.chung@bccdc.ca or the Nurse Educator, Maria MacDougall at bccdctbeducationteam@bccdc.ca.

Sincerely,

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