

2016 Tuberculosis Management

Why do we make sure that you review this material?

We care about your health as well as the health of our patients!

Training Objectives

At the end of this material you will be able to:

- Identify how TB is transmitted
- Identify the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) you need when working with patients with Active TB
- Identify the steps and timelines for responding to exposure to a patient with infectious TB



Tuberculosis Management Policy:

TOH has a corporate Tuberculosis Management Policy as well as a Tuberculosis Management Program.

The purpose is:

- To protect TOH employees from getting Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB) infection while at work
- To ensure that prior to starting work at TOH, new employees are tested for infectious TB
- To ensure TOH employees who are exposed to a patient with infectious TB receive the correct follow-up testing for TB



What is Tuberculosis (TB)?



Tuberculosis is a disease caused by the germ
Mycobacterium tuberculosis

TB usually affects the lungs but **active TB infection** can occur in other parts of the body such as the kidneys, spine, or brain

Active TB infection in the lungs is called pulmonary TB disease; persons with pulmonary TB disease are considered infectious and may spread TB bacteria to others

2.4

Tuberculosis Management Program

How does a person get TB?

TB bacteria are carried on airborne particles that can be spread when someone with active pulmonary or laryngeal TB disease

- coughs
- sneezes
- speaks

Airborne particles from a patient with Active TB can also be generated during specific medical procedures known as “aerosol generating procedures”

- Infection occurs when a susceptible person inhales airborne particles containing TB bacteria

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Positive TB Test History

What if I have had a positive test in the past?

The TOH Tuberculosis Management Program Policy indicates : Staff that have a positive TB testing history are responsible for ensuring Occupational Health and Wellness is aware and to report **annually** any signs or symptoms of TB to Occupational Health and Wellness.

Signs or symptoms of TB are:

- Cough
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Night sweats
- Weight loss



2.6

Latent TB infection

Is everyone who is infected with TB contagious?

No... Some people are infected with TB bacteria, but never get sick and do not have TB disease; this is called latent TB infection

People with latent TB infection are not contagious and cannot spread TB infection to others



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Prevention and Protection:

How we prevent the spread of Infectious Tuberculosis (TB) and how you can protect yourself.

Isolating the Patient

- In hospital, persons who have or may have infectious TB are placed in specifically designed Airborne Infection Isolation rooms

Personal Protective Equipment

- Health care providers must wear a special mask called an N95 respirator when caring for patients who have or may have infectious TB



Tuberculin Skin Test (TST)

TST and
newly hired
staff

TB testing before starting work at TOH

All new TOH employees have **14 days** after corporate orientation to get a Tuberculin Skin Test (TST). Occupational Health and Wellness will provide testing for employees, volunteers, medical house staff, physicians, and contract workers. Employees with a positive TST will be referred to Occupational Health and Wellness for further follow-up.

Annual TST
requirements

Annual Tuberculin Skin Test

As defined in the Tuberculosis Management Program Policy,

- all health care workers
- support services staff who work in Housekeeping, Nutrition and Food Services, Transportation
- and employees in clerical positions: with patient contact

at TOH and UOHI must complete an **annual tuberculin skin test (TST)** prior to the 2nd Monday in February of each year.

[Click here to learn about the procedure](#)



Tuberculin Skin Testing

The TST test, sometimes called the “Mantoux” Test, involves a small injection of serum under the skin on the inside of your arm between your wrist and elbow. It creates a little bump that generally goes away within a day.

You come back to the office to have the test

“read”. This means the nurse or physician looks to see if you’ve had a reaction to the serum. If you have questions, please contact the **Occupational Health Nurse** for your area.

Exposure to TB - Defined

The Tuberculosis Management Program Policy identifies exposure as:

A **TB exposure** is defined as having had face-to-face contact with, or having shared the same room as, a patient with infectious TB **without wearing a fit- tested N95 respirator.**



2.10

Responding to exposure

What happens if staff are exposed to a patient with TB?

The Occupational Health and Wellness Department notifies the staff person...

- If a patient is confirmed to have infectious TB, TOH staff are contacted by Occupational Health and Wellness to determine their exposure

What does the staff person have to do?

- Exposed staff must contact Occupational Health and Wellness within 14 days of notification to determine need for TB testing
- Employees who fail to report to Occupational Health and Wellness within 14 days of notification will **not** be allowed to work until TST is completed

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Summary

Testing:

- All newly hired staff must go to Occupational Health and Wellness to complete or provide proof of recent Tuberculin Skin Tests **within 14 days of being hired**
- Select staff as identified in the Tuberculosis Management Policy must complete annual Tuberculin Skin Testing

Managing Risk:

- You can only contract TB through Airborne particles
- Staff working with patients with active TB must wear N95 respirators (masks)

Response to Exposure:

- If you think you've been exposed or have been notified by Occupational Health and Wellness that you may have been exposed to a patient with Active TB, then you have **14 days to go to OHW for a Tuberculin Skin Test**
 - If you do not report to Occupational Health and Wellness within 14 days of notification you will not be permitted to work until a TST is complete

2.12

Policies & Procedures

Français

Find Policies or Procedures on my Hospital under the 'Policies and Procedures' tab.

The screenshot shows the 'Policies and Procedures' section of a web application. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs: 'TOH Today', 'TOH At A Glance', 'Policies and Procedures' (selected), 'TOH Teams', and 'Employee Services'. Below this, the main heading 'Policies and Procedures' is displayed. To the right of the heading, there is a search bar with a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there is a 'Restrict to:' section with several checkboxes: 'Ambulatory Care', 'Cardiothoracic', 'Corporate Administration', 'Diagnostic Imaging', 'Point of Care Testing', and 'Speech-Language Pathology'. The 'Point of Care Testing' checkbox is highlighted with a green box and a green arrow pointing to it. Another green arrow points to the 'Search' button. A third green arrow points to the 'Corporate Administration' checkbox. Text annotations are present: 'Use the search box to find the policy you are interested in.' points to the search bar, and 'You can limit your search to specific types of policies Choose "Corporate-Administration" for policies related to Accessibility' points to the 'Corporate Administration' checkbox.

TOH Today TOH At A Glance Policies and Procedures TOH Teams Employee Services

Policies and Procedures

Policy Search Search

Restrict to:

- ☐ Ambulatory Care
- ☐ Cardiothoracic
- ☐ Corporate Administration
- ☐ Diagnostic Imaging
- ☒ Point of Care Testing
- ☐ Speech-Language Pathology

Use the search box to find the policy you are interested in.

You can limit your search to specific types of policies
Choose "Corporate-Administration" for policies related to Accessibility

4.1

The End