

Recommendations for Tuberculin Skin Testing of Foreign-Born Students Entering North Dakota School Systems

North Dakota Department of Health Tuberculosis Program

1. All students from foreign country, other than those countries listed in Attachment 1, within a North Dakota school system should receive a **one-step** tuberculin skin test (TST) prior to attending classes for the first time.
 - a. A TST should be given even if the student has received TB vaccine (i.e., Bacille Calmette-Guérin [BCG] vaccine).
 - b. Foreign-born students who have been in the United States for a period of 5 years or longer do **not** require screening.
 - c. During this process, a brief risk assessment should be conducted to determine other TB infection risk factors which influence interpretation of TST results.

2. If student has a positive TST result (i.e., 5-10 mm of induration or greater, depending on risk classification), the student should receive a chest x-ray (CXR) to rule out TB disease.
 - a. Once a negative CXR has been established, the student should be assessed for their ability to initiate and complete a course of treatment for latent TB infection (LTBI) (the standard treatment regimen is Isoniazid [INH] 300 mg daily for a period of 9 months; however, other American Thoracic Society/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [ATS/CDC]-approved regimens may be used if INH is not an option). If the student is deemed a candidate for treatment of LTBI, the student should be followed by a licensed health care provider on at least a monthly basis to assess for medication intolerance and compliance issues. **Note: A decision to test is a decision to treat.**¹

3. Students with a positive TST result should be required to provide a written statement from a licensed health care provider within the United States that they have been examined and do not have TB disease.
 - a. Documentation that TB disease has been previously ruled out is acceptable as long as the screening has been conducted in the United States by a licensed health care provider within past six months. Documentation to this effect should include the date the TST was administered and read, the measurement in millimeters, and the date and results of CXR, if applicable.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MMWR, June 9, 2002/Vol.49/No.RR—6, Targeted Tuberculin Testing and Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection.

Attachment 1

Countries of Low Risk for Tuberculosis

North America

United States
Canada
Jamaica
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia

Europe

Belgium
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Italy
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Malta
Monaco
Netherlands
Norway
San Marino
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

Pacific Region

American Samoa
Australia
New Zealand