

Section 1: **Healthy Workplace**

Policy number: **1.2**

Subject: **Staff Tuberculin Skin Test  
Screening/Assessment**

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Revised:

Distribution: **All FNIHB Staff**

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all applicable staff employed by First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB – Ontario Region) have a current assessment of their tuberculin skin test status and/or tuberculin skin test on file prior to commencing employment.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy is to also ensure that all current FNIHB staff who are at risk for exposure to tuberculosis in the normal performance of their duties, have a tuberculin skin test (TST) and/or assessment and any follow up as indicated after a known exposure to tuberculosis (TB).

## **2 POLICY**

- 2.1 HCPs hired by FNIHB will have an assessment of their current tuberculin skin test status and/or have a tuberculin skin test completed prior to commencing employment. The request for baseline TST status is based on their work assignment as identified by FNIHB - OR and requested through the Public Service Occupational Health Program (PSOHP) as per Occupational Health Assessment Guide (OHAG) Annex G and O, and as outlined in the Canadian Tuberculosis Standards current edition.

## **3 PROCEDURE**

- 3.1 New Employees
  - 3.1.1 Upon hire, all new FNIHB - OR employees are advised of the current recommendations for a tuberculin skin test (TST) for “Occupational Requirements of FNIHB Nurses Assigned to Isolated Posts in Northern First Nations Communities” and “Occupational Medical Assessment for Federal Nurses in a Clinical Role” as outlined in the Health Canada Occupational Health Assessment Guide (OHAG) and the Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, current edition.
  - 3.1.2 The Public Service Occupational Health Program (PSOHP) requests the employee to have a pre-employment medical which includes a tuberculin status assessment and baseline two step tuberculin skin test, if indicated, either with a designated Health Canada physician or the employee’s family physician.

- 3.1.3 The physician or designate performs the baseline TST as per the Canadian TB Standards current edition and documents the results on the employee's pre-employment medical.
  - 3.1.4 The employee will have a chest x-ray if the employee has:
    - 3.1.4.1 A previous documented positive TST
    - 3.1.4.2 Previous treatment for active TB or
    - 3.1.4.3 Previous preventive treatment for Latent TB Infection (LTBI)
  - 3.1.5 The pre-employment medical and documentation of current tuberculin status are returned to the PSOHP.
- 3.2 Current Employees:
- 3.2.1 In the event of a risk exposure to the health care worker, the staff member will be expected to know their TST status and to follow up with their physician for further assessment
  - 3.2.2 TST contact follow up may be indicated after a known exposure. Contact follow up should be done as per the Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, current edition.

#### 4 REFERENCES

Health Canada. (2012). Health Canada's Strategy Against Tuberculosis for First Nations On-Reserve. Retrieved from:

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/alt\\_formats/pdf/pubs/diseases-maladies/tuberculos/tuberculos-strateg/fact-fiche-eng.pdf](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/alt_formats/pdf/pubs/diseases-maladies/tuberculos/tuberculos-strateg/fact-fiche-eng.pdf)

Ontario Hospital Association. (2014). Communicable Disease Surveillance Protocols. Tuberculosis. Retrieved from

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