

Effective Date: July 1, 2021

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, and patients by reducing the risk of tuberculosis transmission based on current U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Recommendations.

Scope: This policy includes all students, faculty, and staff at CWRU who serve in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials, including body substances (e.g., blood, tissue, and specific body fluids); contaminated medical supplies, devices, and equipment; contaminated environmental surfaces; or contaminated air. These individuals may include, but are not limited to nurses, nursing assistants, physicians, technicians, phlebotomists, pharmacists, students and trainees, contractual staff, and persons (e.g., clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry, security, maintenance, engineering, and facilities management, administrative, billing, and volunteer personnel) not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious agents.

Procedure: Consistent with the CDC Guidelines (<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/healthcareworkers.htm>):

1. Baseline TB Screening and Testing:

All CWRU HCP should be screened for TB upon matriculation and/or hire (i.e., preplacement). TB screening is a process that includes:

- A baseline individual TB risk assessment
- TB symptom evaluation,
- A TB test (e.g., TB blood test or a TB skin test), and
- Additional evaluation for TB disease as needed.

Information from the baseline individual TB risk assessment should be used to interpret the results of a TB blood test or TB skin test. CWRU health care personnel with a positive TB test result should receive a symptom evaluation and a chest x-ray to rule out TB disease. Additional workup may be needed based on those results.

CWRU health care personnel with a documented history of a prior positive TB test should receive a baseline individual TB risk assessment and TB symptom screen upon hire (i.e., preplacement). A repeat TB test (e.g., TB blood test or a TB skin test) is not required.

2. Annual Screening, Testing, and Education

Annual TB testing of health care personnel is **not** recommended unless there is a known exposure or ongoing transmission at a healthcare facility. All health care personnel should receive TB education annually. TB education should include information on TB risk factors, the signs and symptoms of TB disease, and TB infection control policies and procedures.

- CWRU HCP will receive an annual TB symptom screen and TB education.
- CWRU HCP who complete a negative symptom screen and receive the education module will be marked compliant annually.
- CWRU HCP with TB symptoms or a known exposure will receive additional evaluation and testing as indicated.

Students who are required by a specific rotation site or other clinic location to have a TB test (skin or blood test) after matriculation will be accommodated.