

# County of Santa Clara

## Public Health Department



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### Public Health Mandate for Tuberculosis Screening In Santa Clara County Schools – New Screening Tests July 1, 2010

Effective October 1, 1995, tuberculosis skin testing (TST) administered by the Mantoux method has been required for all students registering in kindergarten for the first time and for all students transferring from outside Santa Clara County and entering into grades kindergarten through twelve. Effective July 1, 2010, Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) blood tests are also acceptable for children over five years old. Either the TST or IGRA test must have been completed within eighteen months prior to first kindergarten entry or transfer, or within six months prior to entry into grades one through twelve.

Based on the authority given the Santa Clara County Public Health Officer under Chapter 8, California Health and Safety Code Section 3402, these categories of students attending public or private schools are required to undergo tuberculosis testing. The Health Officer has determined that such testing is necessary for the preservation and protection of the public health in Santa Clara County.

The skin test required for school entry is the TST (using 0.1 ml of 5TU-PPD) administered by the Mantoux method and read at 48 to 72 hours. Documentation of the TST must include:

1. Date TST was given
2. Date TST was read
3. The reading recorded in millimeters of induration
4. Signature of a physician, registered nurse or health professional trained in administering and reading TB skin tests

Multiple puncture or prong tests (such as the Monovac, Tine, etc.) will not be accepted.

The documentation for the IGRA test for school entry must be the original or a copy of the lab result.

There will be no exceptions to the testing requirement for those students who have a history of Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine.

Skin tests of 10 (ten) millimeters or greater induration, or positive IGRA tests must be followed by a chest x-ray. Documentation of the chest x-ray shall include the physician's reading and certification that the student has a negative chest x-ray and/or is free of communicable tuberculosis.

Students presenting a physician's written documentation of current or previously completed treatment for latent tuberculin infection shall be considered as meeting the TB screening requirement.

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