

Tuberculosis Screening for Children in Child Care



The following information sheet is meant to clarify the subject of tuberculosis (TB) screening and tuberculin skin testing requirements for children entering child care.

LICENSING MANDATES

Child Care Centers

According to the *General Licensing Requirements/Evaluator Manual*, “a child who is enrolling in a Child Care Center is no longer automatically required to have a Mantoux skin test for tuberculosis.” Instead, a child is **required** to have an **evaluation done for tuberculosis (TB) risk factors** as part of his or her medical assessment. A child is only required to have TB testing **if** (after reviewing the child’s risk factors) a health care provider deems it is necessary.

If indicated, testing may be done with either a tuberculin skin test (TST aka PPD-Mantoux) or interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) which is a blood test. If the TST or IGRA blood test is positive or a child has symptoms of active TB, a chest x-ray should be performed. TST is the preferred test for children under 5 years of age but IGRA can be done for children as young as 4 years of age.

Procedure for Centers

Use the revised *Physician’s Report-Child Care Centers Form* (LIC 701) for all new children entering child care. This Form has a **box** entitled “Screening of Tuberculosis Risk Factors” that the child’s physician/health care provider must complete. The risk factors for TB in children are on the back of the Form. Make sure a *Physician’s Report-Child Care Centers Form* (LIC701) is on file for each child. To access this Form go to: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/forms/English/LIC701.pdf>

Family Child Care Providers

Licensing does not require Family Child Care Providers to have children seen for a pre-admission health evaluation as a requirement for enrollment nor are they required to have TB testing or risk factor screening.

BCG Vaccine

A child has history of BCG vaccination, should they still be seen by a Health Care Provider ?

Yes. Center providers would still need the child’s physician/health care provider to fill out the *Physician’s Report-Child Care Centers Form* (LIC 701) .

Community Care Licensing does not address the subject of positive TB test results, BCG vaccines or treatment plans.

For TB related questions, you may call the Tuberculosis Control Program at (408) 885-4214.

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SCHOOL ENTRY

Do children in child care need a TB test to enter school ?

Maybe. As of June 1, 2014 all children entering kindergarten or transferring into Santa Clara County schools for the *first* time are no longer required to have testing for TB but instead must undergo a TB risk assessment by a health care provider; *TB testing is only required if a risk factor is identified.* TB testing may be done with either a TST (aka PPD-Mantoux) or IGRA.

The TB Risk Assessment Form, including test results (if indicated) must be completed by a health care provider and submitted *prior* to school entry. An assessment done up to twelve months prior to registration for school is considered valid. (Transitional Kindergarten is exempt from this requirement).

TB Risk Assessment Forms can be obtained at the school site or at www.sccphd.org/tb.

If a TST or IGRA is needed, the documentation must indicate the date testing was performed and must be signed by a health care provider. For TSTs, the result of the reading must include the date the TST was **read** and **recorded** in millimeters of induration. Health care providers are encouraged to record this information on the yellow California immunization card.

References:

1. California Department of Social Services (2004). *Manual of Policies and Procedures/Community Care Licensing Division Title 22 Child Care Center Division 12.* Retrieved June 16, 2006 from <http://www.dss.caHwmet.gov/ord/PG587.htm>.
2. Santa Clara County Public Health Department, Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program. Retrieved July 17, 2014 from <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/sccphd/en-us/HealthProviders/TB/Pages/default.aspx>

For more information, please contact the **Child Care Health Promotion Program** at (408) 937-2250 or visit www.sccphd.org . Click on “Partners” then “Child Care Health Consultant”