

## Tuberculosis (TB) Testing

<b>Policy Type:</b>	Administrative	<b>Policy Number:</b>	125
<b>Original Issue:</b>	01/10/2011	<b>Effective Date:</b>	7/18/2023
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**Policy Statement:**

South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority (SCLHSA) shall develop processes to address prevention of and screening for tuberculosis (TB) in order to minimize the exposure in all SCLHSA sites and in the community at large according to the Louisiana Sanitation Code, Title 51, Part II, Chapter 5.

**Rationale:**

To minimize the risk of exposure to employees and clients from tuberculosis (TB).

**Procedure:**

**A. Staff Members Upon Hire**

1. All SCLHSA staff, to include state employees, contractors, and students, shall be free of tuberculosis in a communicable state upon hire as evidenced by either:
  - a. A negative purified protein derivative skin test for tuberculosis, administered 5 tuberculin unit strength by Mantoux method;
  - b. A normal chest x-ray, if the skin test or blood assay for Mycobacterium tuberculosis is positive; or
  - c. A statement from a licensed physician certifying that the individual is non-infectious if the x-ray is other than normal.
2. Any SCLHSA staff member who has a positive purified protein derivative skin test, in order to remain employed, shall complete an adequate course of medical treatment for tuberculosis as prescribed by a Louisiana licensed physician, or shall present a signed statement from a Louisiana licensed physician stating that treatment for tuberculosis is not indicated.
3. All individuals with a history of latent tuberculosis infection or tuberculosis disease prior to or at the time of employment must present a statement from a Louisiana licensed physician that he/she has been satisfactorily treated for tuberculosis and is non-infectious or for persons with a history of untreated latent tuberculosis infection, a statement that he or she is non-infectious.
4. On the staff member's orientation date, the RN Supervisor at the Behavioral Health Center is responsible for administering a purified protein derivative skin test for tuberculosis, administered 5 tuberculin unit strength by Mantoux method to the staff member. If the staff member has a tuberculin skin test within the past year, a copy of the test results may be submitted in lieu of a new skin test being administered. Testing is provided at no cost to the employee. The consent for testing, along with screening, administration, and read documentation shall be documented using the *TB Skin Test Administration Form* (See

Attached) and shall be maintained in the employee confidential medical file in the Human Resources Department.

#### **B. Employees Ongoing**

Any SCLHSA staff member with a history of untreated latent tuberculosis infection giving a positive response to any one of the questions on the annual symptom screen, shall be referred to a physician for medical evaluation as soon as possible. See attached *Annual TB Skin Test Screening Form*.

Annually all SCLHSA staff shall receive educational information explaining the health concerns, signs, symptoms, and risks of tuberculosis.

#### **C. Exposure Procedures**

If an employee is exposed to an individual having or determined to be at risk of having TB the procedures outlined in the Infection Control-Bloodborne Pathogens Policy shall be followed (1-124). A review of all incidents related to employee exposure to TB by a known positive source takes place per the Critical Incident Policy (1103).

Results of any staff medical issues, screening or treatment are maintained in the Employee Confidential Medical File in the Human Resources Department. Once the Human Resources Department receives documentation of completion of approved treatment for exposure, verification of such shall be sent to the employee's Clinic Manager or Director.

Employees who do not follow the SCLHSA's infection control policies and procedures may be subject to corrective and/or disciplinary action.

#### **D. Clients**

TB Skin Tests shall be completed on any client requesting such, unless contraindicated. Clients with a Substance Use Disorder will be screened, offered a TB skin test, and referred for follow-up treatment as described in Policy 418 Medical Clearance for Addiction Services.

#### **Compliance Requirement:**

Louisiana Sanitation Code, Title 51, Part II, Chapter 5

#### **Attachments:**

- TB Skin Test Administration Form
- Annual TB Skin Test Screening Form

#### **Linkages:**

- Critical Incident Policy – Policy 1103
- Infection Control – Bloodborne Pathogens - Policy 124
- Medical Clearance for Addiction Services - Policy 418