Dear Colleague,

As you may be aware, AB1667 replaces universal tuberculosis (TB) testing of employees and volunteers of private, parochial, public K-12 schools and nursery schools, with a TB risk assessment questionnaire. The Adult Tuberculosis (TB) Risk Assessment Questionnaire developed by the California Department of Public Health and the California TB Controllers Association must be used to satisfy California Education code section 49406 and Health and Safety Code 12525-121555.

Please note the following clarification on question five on the questionnaire. The employee or volunteer should be asked if they are a current or former resident in a correctional facility, long-term care facility, hospital or homeless shelter or currently work in one of the above settings.

Employees and volunteers (with frequent or prolonged contact with students) who are identified with risk factors for TB are required to undergo TB testing to determine if the person is free of infectious tuberculosis. County of Riverside, Department of Public Health (DOPH) defines frequent or prolonged contact as 4 hours or more per week on an ongoing basis. The provisions of AB1667 become effective on January 1, 2015. Please refer to the frequently asked questions on the implementation of AB1667.

The TB test shall consist of either an approved intradermal tuberculin test (Mantoux skin test) or any other test for tuberculosis infection (e.g. – Quantiferon) that is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and licensed by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). If the TB test is positive, it must be followed by a chest x-ray. Employees and volunteers who test positive, should not work or volunteer until a chest x-ray has been taken and a clearance issued based on a report indicating the absence of active TB.

TB clearance under this statute may be issued by the person’s health care provider or the County of Riverside Department of Public Health – TB Control. Individuals with documentation of a past positive TB test do not require repeat testing.
Effective January 1, 2015 current school based TB testing programs for employees and volunteers may be discontinued. A TB risk assessment protocol must be implemented. Please note that AB1667 does not prohibit TB testing of employees and volunteers if the governing authority of a private, parochial or nursery school maintains or establishes a TB clearance policy. Community physicians are being advised of the TB risk assessment requirements.

Please contact me at 951-358-5107, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cole

Barbara Cole, RN, PHN, MSN
Director, Disease Control

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