

JUNE 20, 2019



Montana Laboratory Sentinel

Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau, 800-821-7284, www.lab.hhs.mt.gov

Updated recommendations for tuberculosis screening, testing and treatment guidelines in health care personnel

CDC and the National TB Controllers Association (NTCA) released updated recommendations for TB screening, testing, and treatment of health care personnel on May 17, 2019. These recommendations update the health care personnel screening and testing section of the 2005 CDC Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Health Care Settings.

Highlights include:

- Health care personnel (HCP), without prior TB or latent TB infection (LTBI), should have baseline TB screening, including an individual TB risk assessment and symptom evaluation, which is necessary for interpreting results.
- Serial TB screening of HCP is not recommended unless there is a known exposure or ongoing transmission at a healthcare facility.
- Treatment for HCP diagnosed with LTBI is strongly encouraged unless treatment is contraindicated
- Annual symptom screening for HCP with untreated LTBI
- Annual TB education of all healthcare personnel
- Health care personnel should have a timely symptom evaluation and additional testing if indicated, after a known exposure to a person with potentially infectious TB disease, without wearing adequate personal protection.
 - Those without prior documented evidence of LTBI or TB disease should have an IGRA or TST performed. If the initial testing is negative, they should be tested again in 8-10 weeks after last exposure.
 - Those with documented evidence of prior LTBI or TB disease should not be tested but should have further evaluation if concerns for TB exist.
- Health care personnel considered low risk with a newly positive test result should undergo a symptom evaluation and chest radiograph to assess for TB disease. Additional workup might be indicated based on the results.
- Healthcare personnel with LTBI and no prior treatment, should be offered and strongly encouraged to complete treatment with a recommended regimen.
 - Those with LTBI that do not complete treatment should receive an annual TB symptom evaluation to detect early evidence of TB disease and reevaluate the risks and benefits of LTBI treatment.
- Healthcare facilities might consider using serial TB screening for certain groups at increased occupational risk for TB exposure (e.g., pulmonologists or respiratory therapists) or in certain settings if transmission has occurred in the past (e.g., emergency departments).
- Consultation with the State Health Department is encouraged when making these decisions You may reach the Montana TB Program at 406-444-0273.

The MMWR with the new guidelines can found here: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6819a3.htm?s_cid=mm6819a3_x

If you have questions regarding laboratory testing for TB or LTBI, please contact the Montana Public Health Laboratory at 1-800-821-7284

New Informatics Courses for Laboratorians

These free courses are sponsored by CDC and APHL and provide the learner with an introductory overview of laboratory informatics, told through the journey of a single tuberculosis specimen making its way through the laboratory. Feel free to share these with public health or clinical laboratorians who want to learn more about laboratory informatics. Participants can earn P.A.C.E.® credits upon completion.

[The Life of a Specimen](#)

[https://www.cdc.gov/labtraining/training-courses/lab-infomatics/life-of-a-specimen.html?
CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Flabtraining%2Ftraining-courses%2Fintroduction-to-laboratory-informatics-life-of-a-specimen.html](https://www.cdc.gov/labtraining/training-courses/lab-infomatics/life-of-a-specimen.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Flabtraining%2Ftraining-courses%2Fintroduction-to-laboratory-informatics-life-of-a-specimen.html)

In this first introductory course, learn the roles of various personnel in the laboratory informatics enterprise, data relationships, data quality and standards, and the generation and flow of information as a specimen progresses through the pre-analytic, analytic, and post-analytic phases.

[The Life of a Result](#)

[https://www.cdc.gov/labtraining/training-courses/lab-infomatics/life-of-a-result.html?
CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Flabtraining%2Ftraining-courses%2Fintroduction-to-laboratory-informatics-life-of-a-result.html](https://www.cdc.gov/labtraining/training-courses/lab-infomatics/life-of-a-result.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Flabtraining%2Ftraining-courses%2Fintroduction-to-laboratory-informatics-life-of-a-result.html)

The second course will help the student understand how data and information move through the laboratory and then outside the laboratory to impact clinical care and public health. Learn characterization of the recipients of laboratory data, data and results storage, and the communication of data and results (especially electronically) to various stakeholders.

Please contact the Montana Public Health Laboratory at 1-800-821-7284 for more information



June is sweet! This month is National Candy Month along with National Dairy Month, National Seafood Month and National Ice Tea Month.