

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL SCREENING GUIDELINES

The Connecticut Department of Public Health and the School Health Committee of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics have revised their recommended guidelines pertaining to tuberculin testing requirements.

C.G.S. 10-206 (b) and (c) mandate that each student have a health assessment at three times during his/her primary and secondary school education. Such assessments are required just before school entry, during grade 6 or 7, and during grade 9 or 10. This assessment, per the statute, "shall include a test for tuberculosis when the local or regional board of education determines, after consultation with the school medical advisor and local health department that such a test is necessary."

Routine tuberculin testing at each of the required examinations is not recommended, based upon the current low rates of transmission of tuberculosis in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health recommends that at *each* mandated examination, an assessment be made of the risk of exposure to tuberculosis. Students not already known to have a positive test should be tested if they have any of the following risk factors for tuberculosis infection:

- a. were born in a high risk country* of the world and do not have a record of a tuberculin skin test performed in the United States (*all countries in Africa, Asia, the former Soviet Union, Central and South America, Dominican Republic and Haiti);
- b. have traveled to a high risk country since the previously required examination;
- c. have had extensive contact with persons who have recently come to the United States since the previously required examination;
- d. had contact with persons suspected to have tuberculosis;
- e. have been living in a homeless shelter, detention center/prison and/or uses illegal drugs;
- f. have HIV infection/AIDS.

Schools should assure that all students originally from high risk countries who are entering school in Connecticut for the first time receive a tuberculin skin test.

The intradermal injection test (Mantoux) should be used if possible, in preference to multiple puncture (e.g. Monovac, Tine) tests. If a multiple puncture test is used, any reaction should be followed up immediately with a chest x-ray.

Although not required by law, it is recommended that children with significant reactions be reported to the local health department and the Connecticut Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Program.