
Temporary Changes to Tuberculosis (TB) Testing Requirements for Health Care Facilities

April 14, 2020

In order to reduce person – to – person interactions for health care personnel (HCP) and to conserve personal protective equipment (PPE) used for these encounters, the New Mexico Department of Health (NM DOH) is making the following temporary changes to tuberculosis (TB) testing requirement for health care facilities due to the global coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID19) pandemic:

- Health care facilities should consider using TB IGRA (blood tests), when feasible, to fulfill baseline testing requirements on newly hired HCP
- If unable to use TB IGRA testing on hire, baseline TB testing may be deferred on newly hired HCP beginning April 14, 2020 until a declaration ending the public health emergency is issued
- If deferment of testing is done, an initial TB screening should be completed in lieu of baseline testing. If the HCP has a negative screening (i.e., no symptoms of active TB disease), they may begin work. Baseline TB testing (TB skin test or TB blood test) should be completed within 30 days of the end of the public health emergency
- All health care facilities must document the date they began modifying their baseline TB testing protocol and track newly hired HCP to ensure testing is completed within 30 days of end of public health emergency

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