



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC
HEALTH**

Appleton Health Department Procedures

Title: Tuberculosis Contacts				
Procedure #: N_205_4_PRO				
Creation Date: 4/14/2025		Last Approved Date:		Reviewed Annually
Description: Procedure for contacts of active tuberculosis cases				
PHAB Domain/ Standard/ Measure: 2.1.4 A: Maintain protocols for investigation of public health issues. 2.1.5 A: Maintain protocols for containment and mitigation of public health problems and environmental public health hazards.				
Statutory Authority/ Evidence Base/ Links: Chapter 252: Communicable Diseases (specifically, 252.07 Tuberculosis): https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/252/07				
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Procedure Approval Tracking				
Created/ Reviewed/ Revised Date	Legal Services Approval Date	Board of Health Approval Date	Council Approval Date	Health Officer or Designee Signature (Name/Title)
Created 4/14/2025	08.27.2025			

Purpose

Provide consistent and timely identification and evaluation of contacts to an Active Tuberculosis (TB) Case.



Procedure

- A. To determine infectious period and priority level of contacts review and follow the P-00647 Nurse Case Management for Active Tuberculosis (TB) document from the WI TB Program.ⁱ
- B. During the index patient interview, start listing names and location information of named contacts. Continue listing them throughout the investigation. Assign an initial priority classification to each contact; revise as needed when new information is received. Report contacts to WI TB Program within 2 weeks of notification of the case report; by entering contact information into WEDSS.
- C. Assure that initial encounters and TST or IGRAs are conducted among high- and medium- priority contacts within seven days after being listed in the investigation. For those who are candidates for TST, it can be provided for free through the AHD. For interpreting the TST, an induration transverse diameter of ≥ 5 mm is positive for any contact. High priority contacts include children and/or those who have high risk factors.
 - a. Consider window prophylaxis for any household contact less than five years of age or with HIV infection, even if testing is negative, once active disease is ruled out.
 - b. Assure that medical evaluations are conducted of high-priority contacts that have signs or symptoms of disease within five days after initial encounter with contact, regardless of test result.
 - c. Review and assess the completeness of contacts' medical follow-up and treatment plans within five days after their medical evaluations.
- D. See WEDSS charting instructions and additional guidance recommendations per WI State TB program.ⁱⁱ

Definitions

Active TB Disease: Active tuberculosis (TB) disease happens when the immune system cannot keep TB germs from multiplying and growing in the body. People with TB disease feel sick and can spread TB germs to others. TB disease can almost always be treated and cured with medicine. Without treatment, it can be fatal.

AHD: Appleton Health Department

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus



IGRA: Interferon-Gamma Release Assay, is a blood test used to diagnose tuberculosis infection.

Latent or Inactive Tuberculosis: Tuberculosis (TB) germs can live in the body for years without making you sick. This is called inactive TB or latent TB infection. People with inactive TB do not feel sick, do not have symptoms, and cannot spread TB germs to others. Without treatment, inactive TB can develop into active TB disease at any time and make you sick.

TST: Tuberculin Skin Test, a two-step screening test for TB bacteria.

WEDSS: Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System

Window Prophylaxis: Giving high-risk contacts treatment for Latent TB Infection even if they have a negative TST or IGRA if less than twelve weeks have passed since they were last exposed to TB. Treatment is given because it can take two to eight weeks after TB infection for the body's immune system to be able to produce a response to either test.

Attachments

[Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 252: Communicable Diseases](#)

[Wisconsin Administrative Codes Chapter DHS 145: Control of Communicable Diseases](#)

ⁱ P-00647 Nurse Case Management for Active Tuberculosis (TB) Disease
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/index.htm>

ⁱⁱ The Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) charting instructions and additional guidance recommendations per WI State TB program.
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tb/wedss.htm>