



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Joe Manchin III  
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker  
Secretary

To: All Local Health Departments

From: Dominic Gaziano, M.D., Director  
Tuberculosis Control Program

Date: February 13, 2007

Re: New Recommendations for Screening for Tuberculosis in Children

Strategies for controlling tuberculosis infection and disease have evolved from periodic routine screening of large groups to aggressive identification and investigation of high-risk groups.

The overall emphasis to control tuberculosis in West Virginia will be placed on identifying the disease and accessing health care, timely and effective contact investigations, proper interpretation of Mantoux skin tests, thorough history-taking of exposure to infectious persons, and appropriate use of therapy, including directly observed therapy.

- "The original recommendation for skin testing at one year of age was based on the theoretical concept that the administration of measles vaccine might reactivate dormant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*." (American Academy of Pediatrics) This theory has not been supported by data and skin testing at this age is no longer policy.
- Kindergarten pupils and first grade pupils will no longer be required to receive a tuberculin skin test prior to entry to school. (HB 4578 passed March 11, 2000, to become effective 90 days from passage – attached).
- Only children with increased risk of exposure to persons with tuberculosis should be considered for tuberculin skin testing. The frequency of such skin testing is detailed in the attached Table from the American Academy of Pediatrics' 1996 policy statement. The appropriate method of skin testing is the Mantoux method. Multi-puncture tests will no longer be provided by the Tuberculosis Control Program.

If you have any questions, you may call the Tuberculosis Control program at 800-330-8126 or (304)558-3669.

Attachments

cc: Chris Curtis    Joe Barker    Loretta Haddy    Kay Shamblin    Cathy Slemp

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**Bureau for Public Health**  
**Division of Surveillance and Disease Control**  
**Tuberculosis Control Program**  
Room 125, 350 Capitol Street  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3715  
(304) 558-3669 or 1-800-330-8126

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