SUBJECT: SCREENING OF HEALTH SERVICES STAFF FOR TUBERCULOSIS

POLICY

All Health Services Staff shall be tested for Tuberculosis at time of hire and annually thereafter.

PURPOSE

To provide screening, surveillance, and appropriate referral of Staff at risk for Tuberculosis.

RATIONALE

Tuberculosis continues to be a highly infectious, potentially life threatening disease. Because of the increase in tuberculosis worldwide, and in response to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) recommendation regarding strategies for TB control, the University of Notre Dame is initiating this policy.

PROCEDURE

Screening for Tuberculosis Disease and Infection

To be accepted as valid, the tuberculin skin test must meet the following requirements:

A. The testing process used must be the Mantoux purified protein derivative (PPD) test. This test must be administered by an intradermal injection of purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin containing 5 tuberculin units injected into the underside of the forearm.

B. After the PPD test is placed it must be read at least 48 hours and no more than 72 hours after administered. If the test is not read within this 48-72 hour time frame, a negative test must be repeated. A positive test will be accepted even if greater than 72 hours after administration.
C. A person having a prior history of a positive Mantoux PPD test without certificate of completion of INH therapy will be required to have a Quantiferon-Gold serum blood test.

D. Persons who have had PPD tests done and read as negative at another health care facility in the United States and have not traveled outside the U.S. subsequently do not need to be re-tested. The results of the PPD must be documented on a PPD form that is signed or stamped by a U.S. physician or other authorized official.

E. A Mantoux PPD test administered in a foreign country that yielded a negative result will not be accepted, even with a validated PPD form or other documented test results. These persons will be re-tested by QTF-G at Health Services.

F. A person with a Mantoux PPD test administered in a foreign country that yielded a positive result and without certificate of completion of INH therapy will be required to have QTF-G test, or a Chest X-ray and medications.

G. Only exception for TB screening is if certification of completion of pharmaceutical (INH) therapy for the appropriate period of time.

Section IV - Classifying Tuberculin Reaction

The area of swelling around the site of the PPD injection is the reaction to tuberculin. The PPD test is read by taking a measurement in millimeters of the induration (hardness under skin), not the redness of the skin, perpendicular to the long axis of the forearm.

A. A reading of five or more millimeters is positive for the following groups:
   1. Persons who have close contact with an individual with infectious tuberculosis.
   2. Persons with HIV infection.
      a. Persons who have chest x-rays with fibrotic lesions likely to represent old, healed tuberculosis.
   3. Persons who inject drugs if HIV status is unknown.

B. A reading of ten or more millimeters is positive for the following groups:
   1. Foreign-born persons from areas with reportedly high occurrence rates of TB.
   2. American born students who have traveled abroad to a high-risk country for more than one month.
   3. Intravenous drug users.
   4. Persons with known medical risk factors.
   5. Children younger than four years of age.

C. A reading of fifteen or more millimeters is positive for all American born persons who have no known risk factors.

Section V - Follow up of PPD Test

University Health Services is obligated by law to report the name of any person diagnosed with active TB or latent TB infection (LTBI) to the Saint Joseph County Health Department.

_If the QTF-G test result is negative_, no further testing or treatment is required. The person is informed of the signs and symptoms of tuberculosis and encouraged to seek medical care if these symptoms develop.

_If the QTF-G result is positive_, the person is required to have a chest X-Ray (any films or x-ray reports from a foreign country will not be accepted.)
If the chest x-ray is negative for active TB disease, the student will be managed according to SJCHD guidelines with possible preventive treatment.

1. If the person decides to follow the recommended medication therapy, the SJCHD will provide the medications through University Health Services Pharmacy on a monthly basis. The person will be screened for side effects monthly.
2. If at least 6 months of medications are completed within 9 months, or 9 months of medications within 12 months, a certificate of completion (EXHIBIT I) will be issued to the person for verification.
3. If the person decides NOT to follow this recommendation, this will be documented, a refusal form will be completed and she/he will be taught the signs and symptoms of tuberculosis and encouraged to seek medical care if these symptoms develop. A risk assessment (EXHIBIT II) will be done at the beginning of each academic year while attending school here.

B. If the chest x-ray is abnormal and suggestive of active TB, the person will be required to follow up with the Saint Joseph County Health Department and have further testing done including sputum smears for TB germs and TB culture. A person may NOT attend class. Any person diagnosed with active tuberculosis disease will be required to follow the recommendations of the Saint Joseph County Health Department and the Medical Director at Health Services. Failure to comply with these standards will result in a report to Risk Management. In the case of a student with a failure to comply, a report will also be sent to the Office of Student Affairs

C. If other abnormal findings on the Chest X-ray, films are to be repeated in 6 months at the discretion of the University Health Services Medical Director.

FOR STUDENTS:

1. All new international students (foreign-born, non U.S. citizens who are not U.S. permanent residents) enrolled for on-campus coursework must be screened before the first semester of attendance at the university. New graduate students who were previously enrolled as undergraduates, will again be tested if they have traveled outside of the U.S. since their initial admission as an undergraduate, and were previously negative.
2. All new international students must prove that they are free of active, infectious tuberculosis either through a negative skin test or a negative Quantiferon - Gold (QTF-G) lab test done in the U.S. The only TB skin test accepted is a Mantoux purified protein derivative (PPD) test that is read within 48 to 72 hours. Documented negative TB tests or X-Rays performed outside the United States are not acceptable.
3. Failure to comply with the testing requirement will result in a hold being placed on the student’s account, and they will be unable to register for future classes until the requirement is met.
4. Students with a positive TB skin test result will be required to have a QTF-G 30 days after a positive TB test. If QTF-G results are positive, a chest X-ray must be done. Students with an indeterminate chest x-ray may remain registered for classes with the physician’s approval. Chest x-rays and x-ray reports from outside the United States will not be accepted, except for clinical comparison at the discretion of the physician.
5. Students with a positive chest x-ray:
   - will be referred to the St. Joe County Health Department (SJCHD) for possible additional testing and treatment.
- will maintain compliance with a treatment regimen, as determined by the SJCHD, or be reported to the Health Center by that agency.

**Student Testing Parameters**

*Tuberculin testing is required for the following groups of students.*

All *new students who are foreign born, or are non-U.S. citizens who have been U.S. permanent residents for less than 4 years and are enrolled for on campus course work* will be screened for Tuberculosis by the following process:

1. Country of origin:
   a. Those who are from low-risk countries will be screened out.
   b. Those from high-risk countries will be screened in.
   c. Those US citizens living in high-risk countries may be screened in.

2. Those from high-risk countries will be required to:
   a. Provide proof of a negative Mantoux skin test performed in the United States.
   b. Undergo TB testing through Health Services within the first month of the first semester of attendance at the university.
   c. Show certification of completed INH therapy if positive TB skin test.

*Mantoux tuberculin skin testing is highly recommended for the following persons:*

- All international postdoctoral fellows and visiting scholars.
- Any Notre Dame student who has participated in international travel to a high-risk area for more than one month as part of an official university program. Testing is recommended 3 months after the student’s return.
- Any student not included in the groups listed above who has traveled for > one month to a country outside the U.S. which is identified as high-risk.

*Exceptions - A delay for tuberculosis testing will be permitted if tuberculin skin test or live vaccine (MMR, varicella, BCG, yellow fever) administered < one month ago, the student is to wait 30 days for QTF-G test.*

**STUDENT NOTIFICATION**

A. All new international students (foreign-born, non U.S. citizens who are not U.S. permanent residents) enrolled for on-campus course work *will be notified of the requirement for tuberculosis testing upon arrival at the University of Notre Dame by International Student Services.* The following consequences of non-compliance with this testing requirement will also be communicated by the International Studies Office. A hold on their ‘account’ by registrar’s office and they will be unable to register for future classes until the requirement is met.

B. Tuberculosis testing will be offered by University Health Services within one week of the first day of the semester. The Registrar’s office will provide a current demographic file of international students for download to Health Services prior to each testing clinic date.

C. Students will be required to have testing completed by September 30th of the academic year.
1. Student Health Services will communicate names of students not yet tested to the Office of International Studies in an attempt to verify presence on campus and to seek updated information concerning e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and current residence.

2. Student Health Services will attempt to notify any student who has not met the testing requirement by e-mail; by personal telephone call; and, if e-mail and telephone numbers are not available; by letter.

3. Student Health Services will forward the name of any student who has not met the testing requirement to the Office of International Studies and to the Office of Students Affairs.

4. International Student Services will attempt to make a personal contact with any non-compliant student.

**Annual Review**

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