

MUSC STUDENT HEALTH TUBERCULOSIS SURVEY AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Person-to-person transmission occurs when an individual inhales airborne bacteria expelled by the coughing of a person who is sick with active pulmonary tuberculosis disease. When an individual inhales airborne *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacteria, the bacteria initially multiply, but most people with a healthy immune system are able to contain the initial infection by walling off the bacteria in granulomas. People who have effectively contained the initial infection have **LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION (LTBI)**. People with LTBI are not sick from TB (no TB symptoms), are not contagious to others, and usually have a normal chest X-ray.

However, without treatment, up to 10% of people with LTBI will become sick with **ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS DISEASE** at some point in their lives. This occurs when the immune system no longer is able to contain the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacteria, and the bacteria “reactivate”. A breakdown of the immune system can occur due to medications that suppress the immune system (such as steroids and medications for managing organ transplantation and autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis or inflammatory bowel disease). Other reasons for immune system breakdown include aging, HIV, and diabetes. Once TB reactivates, it can spread throughout the lungs (causing pneumonia) and to other parts of the body like the bones or central nervous system – this is active tuberculosis disease. Typical symptoms of active tuberculosis disease are cough, fevers, night sweats, and fatigue. **People with active tuberculosis disease are sick (about 10% die), and can be infectious to other people.**

Because TB is spread through the air, the healthcare system and healthcare personnel have responsibilities for preventing transmission of the bacteria. For you as a healthcare personnel, this means knowing whether you have LTBI, and if you have LTBI, taking a course of preventive antibiotics to help ensure that you do not become sick with active tuberculosis disease and you do not transmit TB to other people.

TUBERCULOSIS SELF-EVALUATION/SURVEY

Have you had any of the following symptoms for more than 3 weeks:

- NO YES Chronic cough for over 3 weeks
- NO YES Coughing up blood or sputum
- NO YES Unexplained shortness of breath
- NO YES Unexplained loss of appetite
- NO YES Weight loss without dieting (over 8-lbs.)
- NO YES Night sweats
- NO YES Persistent low grade fever (> 100.0 F)
- NO YES Chronic pain in chest
- NO YES Severe fatigue for over 3 weeks
- NO YES In the past year, have you been in contact with anyone who is contagious for TB?

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE SYMPTOMS OF TUBERCULOSIS. I UNDERSTAND IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT TO STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES IF ANY SYMPTOMS OCCUR.

Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Contact Information (Phone) : _____

Proceed to TB Risk Assessment on next page

ANNUAL TUBERCULOSIS RISK ASSESSMENT

Prior to starting classes, all MUSC students must establish their baseline TB status with a blood test (*QuantiFERON®-TB Gold, T-Spot ®*) **OR** Tuberculin Skin Testing. Students with latent tuberculosis or previously treated active tuberculosis must provide verifiable documentation of previous testing and treatment. In addition, students will complete a TB Risk Assessment annually to determine if they are at increased for developing TB because of one or more of the following conditions listed below. Additional TB testing may be necessary for students who have or acquire risk factors for tuberculosis (travel to countries endemic for TB, exposure to active TB, etc.) and are to report these risks to Student Health. Risk factors for tuberculosis include:

◆ **Travel** from a country with a high TB rate (> 20 TB cases/100,000) - includes any country **other** than the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or a country in western or northern Europe – see list of countries endemic for TB below.

- Lived in a country endemic for TB for >= one month **or**
- Worked in TB environments (hospitals, prisons, or homeless shelters) in one these countries.

◆ **Immunosuppression** (current or planned) - HIV infection, organ transplant recipient, treated with TNF-alpha antagonist (Infliximab, Etanercept, Golimumab, Certolizumab pegol Adalimumab), steroids (equivalent of prednisone ≥15 mg/day for ≥1 month) or other immunosuppressive medication.

◆ **TB Exposure** – close contact with someone with an active infection or worked in a healthcare setting where TB transmission has been reported (including Emergency Departments, Pulmonary Service, Respiratory Therapy, etc.). **Report exposures to active tuberculosis immediately to Student Health.**

If you fall into any of the risk categories above, please indicate below:

☐ **RISK FACTORS FOR TUBERCULOSIS**

- In the past 12 months I have been exposed to active tuberculosis or worked in a facility reporting ongoing TB transmission.
- In the past 12 months I have lived in a country endemic for TB for >= one month or worked any length of time in a high risk TB environment (hospitals, prisons, medical mission trips, or homeless shelters) in one these countries. (Baseline TB testing prior to travel, and repeat testing 8-10 weeks after return, using the same testing method).
- I have an immunosuppressed condition (HIV, Organ Transplant) and/or in the past 12 months have taken medications that suppress my immune system.

☐ **NO RISK FACTORS FOR TUBERCULOSIS:**

- In the past 12 months, I **have not** had any known exposures to tuberculosis or visited any countries endemic for TB.
- I **do not** have an immunosuppressed condition (HIV, Organ Transplant) and in the past 12 months have not taken any medications that suppress my immune system.

STUDENT: _____ PRINT NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

High Burden TB Countries 2019 (TB incidence rates of ≥ 20/100,000)

* WHO Global TB Report

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| Afghanistan | Burkina Faso | Fiji | Kiribati | Mongolia | Portugal | Tanzania |
| Albania | Burundi | French Polynesia | Kuwait | Morocco | Qatar | Tajikistan |
| Algeria | Cabo Verde | Gabon | Korea (North/South) | Mozambique | Romania | Thailand |
| Angola | Cambodia | Gambia | Kuwait | Myanmar (Burma) | Russia | Timor-Leste |
| Anguilla | Cameroon | Georgia | Kyrgyzstan | Namibia | Rwanda | Togo |
| Argentina | Central African Republic | Ghana | Lao People's DR | Nauru | Sao Tome and | Tokelau |
| Armenia | Chad | Greenland | Latvia | Nepal | Principe | Tunisia |
| Azerbaijan | China | Guam | Lesotho | Nicaragua | Senegal | Turkmenistan |
| Bahamas | Colombia | Guatemala | Liberia | Niger | Serbia | Tuvalu |
| Bangladesh | Comoros | Guinea | Libya | Nigeria | Sierra Leone | Uganda |
| Belarus | Congo | Guinea-Bissau | Lithuania | Niue | Singapore | Ukraine |
| Belize | Congo (Democratic Republic) | Guyana | Madagascar | Northern Mariana | Solomon | Uruguay |
| Benin | Cote d'Ivoire | Haiti | Malawi | Islands | Islands | Uzbekistan |
| Bhutan | Djibouti | Honduras | Malaysia | Pakistan | Somalia | Vanuatu |
| Bolivia | Dominican Republic | India | Maldives | Palau | South Africa | Venezuela |
| Bosnia/Herzegovina | Ecuador | Indonesia | Mali | Panama | Sri Lanka | Viet Nam |
| Botswana | El Salvador | Iran | Marshall Islands | Papua New Guinea | Sudan | Yemen |
| Brazil | Equatorial Guinea | Iraq | Mauritania | Paraguay | Suriname | Zambia |
| Brunei Darussalam | Eritrea | Kazakhstan | Micronesia | Peru | Swaziland | Zimbabwe |
| Bulgaria | Ethiopia | Kenya | Moldova | Philippines | Syria | |