

Students

Tuberculosis Screening

Tuberculosis remains a critical public health concern in the United States and both the CDC and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) have issued recommendations for the appropriate screening for and management of this infection. In May, 2005 DPH issued new Guidelines for the screening of the state's school children. In accordance with these recommendations the New Haven Board of Education adopts the following policy:

All students undergoing a health assessment (1) at any of the three times mandated by state statute or (2) at the time of first entry into the New Haven Schools must have an assessment performed of their risk of exposure to tuberculosis as recommended by the CT Department of Public Health Guidelines published in May, 2005.

Furthermore, all students assessed to be at high risk of exposure to tuberculosis whose PPD status is not already known, must be tested and the interpretation of their testing reported to the Bureau of Nursing before they are permitted entry. All students testing positive should be referred for counseling regarding the significance of their test results and further evaluation to their primary care provider or, in the absence of one, the Winchester Chest Clinic at Yale-New Haven Hospital which offers free evaluation and treatment for anyone with TB without the means to pay for care. The results of the risk assessment and testing, when done, should be recorded on the state health assessment record (HAR-3) or directly in the student's school health record (CHR-1). Failure to have appropriate testing performed, interpreted and reported is a basis for exclusion from class.

Finally, all children who test positive should have a written management plan submitted to the school from their primary care provider or the Winchester Chest Clinic within 30 days of school entry in order to be retained in school. Such management plan will need to consider, among other things, whether there was previous treatment for tuberculosis, whether such therapy was adequately completed, the risk of ongoing or recurrent exposure and the risk of potential transmission by the student. As stated in the DPH Guidelines, however, prior immunization with BCG will not be a consideration in formulating the management plan. As above, the details of the management plan, including anticipated duration of therapy and date when completed, if applicable, should be recorded on the state health assessment record (HAR-3) or directly in the student's school health record (CHR-1). Proper reporting of tuberculosis infection or disease should also be made to the state and local health departments as required by law. When a student tests positive, failure to have a written management plan within the 30 day window is a basis for exclusion from class.

Policy adopted: April 24, 2007

New Haven Public Schools
New Haven, Connecticut