



BARBARA FERRER, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

MUNTU DAVIS, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer

MEGAN McCLAIRE, M.S.P.H.
Chief Deputy Director

RITA SINGHAL, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Disease Control Bureau

JULIE M. HIGASHI, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Tuberculosis Control Program

2615 South Grand Avenue, Room 507
Los Angeles, California 90007
TEL (213) 745-0800 • FAX (213) 749-0926

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov



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Dear Civil Surgeons,

The Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health, Tuberculosis Control Program (TBCP) is contacting you about the Civil Surgeons Technical Instructions for Medical Examination of persons seeking permanent residency in the United States. The revisions to the instructions took effect on October 1, 2018, and all applicants for status adjustment should be screened according to the new Technical Instructions.

New Tuberculosis (TB) Screening & Reporting Requirements

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Global Migration and Quarantine revised its Technical Instructions for tuberculosis (TB) screening, requiring an interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test for evaluation of TB infection, instead of a tuberculin skin test (TST), for all applicants aged 2 years and older. A chest x-ray is required for all applicants with a positive IGRA result. The revision also includes a requirement to report Latent TB Infection (LTBI) to the local health department (LHD). An applicant is considered to have LTBI when the following conditions are met: a positive IGRA result and a chest x-ray result not suggestive of tuberculosis disease, no known HIV infection, and no signs or symptoms of tuberculosis disease. Please see the CDC website to review the new 2018 Civil Surgeon TB Technical Instructions: <https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/ti/civil/tuberculosis-civil-technical-instructions.html>

Reporting LTBI

The LTBI report submitted to the LHD should include the applicant's name, contact information, IGRA and chest x-ray results. Civil surgeons must inform such applicants that their LTBI diagnosis has been reported and should advise the applicant that follow-up treatment is important to prevent tuberculosis disease.

The TBCP is requesting that you use the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE) to report LTBI to our department via the Provider Portal module. The CalREDIE Provider Portal module will allow you to electronically submit necessary patient information and LTBI test results via a secure web-based interface.

CalREDIE is an electronic notifiable diseases and conditions reporting and surveillance system developed and maintained by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

To sign up for the Provider Portal, please complete a **Civil Surgeon Reporter Account Authorization Form** for each individual responsible for entering data into the Provider Portal. Accounts cannot be shared. Please specify your individual work email account on the form. All three pages of the signed form should be sent via email, or fax, to the TBCP Liaison identified below. Once the Provider Portal account is created, the login information will be sent to the individual's email account directly. Shared work email accounts will require login information to be provided to the individual over the phone.

TBCP Cal REDIE Liaison: Miguel Gonzalez
Email: mgonzalez@ph.lacounty.gov

Reporting TB Disease

Please continue your usual process of reporting applicants through the Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) form, available for download at: <http://ph.lacounty.gov/tb/Forms/CMR2.2020.pdf> for the following applicants:

- abnormal chest x-ray suggestive of TB disease, old or new
- clinical signs or symptoms suggestive of TB disease or known HIV infection regardless of IGRA result or chest radiographic findings
- applicants with extrapulmonary disease, regardless of chest x ray findings

Please report any of the above immediately to avoid delay in treatment and include at the time of referral, on Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record, the IGRA and chest x ray results, any signs or symptoms of TB disease, the approximate date of US arrival, and in the "Remarks" section indicate "provider reporting possible TB disease" as the reason for referral.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact: (213) 745-0800.