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Director and State Public Health Officer

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The Medical Board of California is contacting you on behalf of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), please see the message below:

The California Department of Public Health, Tuberculosis Control Branch (TBCB) would like to inform all healthcare providers about California's new Tuberculosis (TB) screening law, [Assembly Bill 2132](#), which was signed into law on September 29, 2024 and takes effect on January 1, 2025. The bill requires an adult patient receiving primary care services to be offered a TB screening test if risk factors are identified, and if the patient's health insurance covers it, followed by provision or referral for appropriate follow-up care with the goal of reducing the disproportionate impact of TB among Californians.

Despite being preventable, TB disease continues to cause significant [suffering and death in the state of California](#). Of the more than 2 million Californians with latent TB infection (LTBI), only 20 percent are aware of their diagnosis and only 12 percent have been treated. TB disproportionately impacts subgroups defined by race, ethnicity, and place of birth in California and urgently needs addressing from a health equity lens.

Primary care providers serve a critical role in identifying patients with risk factors for TB infection. Because we do not have an effective vaccine (the Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine does not offer lifelong protection from TB disease), the most promising tool in the fight against TB is diagnosing and treating LTBI. Screening and treatment for LTBI is recommended by CDPH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](#).

For additional support with TB patient evaluation, please reach out to your local public health department: [CTCA Directory of TB Control Staff in California](#) and read more about the bill linked below, including specific exemptions where the requirement does not apply such as in the emergency department. Of note, the bill prohibits disciplinary action related to medical licensure or civil or criminal liability for healthcare providers who fail to comply with the new regulation. Additional resources for healthcare providers evaluating patients for LTBI can also be found below.

CDPH TBCB will be holding a webinar about LTBI best practices, aimed at MD/DOs, on Thursday April 24, 12-1:30 pm. Registration link:

[Latent TB Infection \(LTBI\): Opportunities for Preventing TB](#)



Please see the resources below for more information or contact CDPH TB Control Branch at TBFreeCATraining@cdph.ca.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Flood, MD, MPH

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Additional Resources:

- [Assembly Bill 2132 Language:](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB2132)
[leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB2132](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB2132)
- [California TB Controllers Association Press Release on AB 2132:](https://ctca.org/coalition-for-a-tb-free-ca/resources/)
ctca.org/coalition-for-a-tb-free-ca/resources/
- [TB in California 2023 Snapshot:](https://cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TB-in-California-2023-Snapshot.aspx)
cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TB-in-California-2023-Snapshot.aspx
- [U.S. Preventative Service Task Force recommendations for LTBI:](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2804319)
jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2804319
- [Healthcare Provider Resources and Tools for LTBI:](https://cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TB_Provider_Resources.aspx)
cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TB_Provider_Resources.aspx
- [TB Control Directory by County In California:](https://ctca.org/wp-content/uploads/CTCA-Directory.pdf)
ctca.org/wp-content/uploads/CTCA-Directory.pdf