

# Texas Woman's University University Regulation and Procedure

**Regulation and Procedure Name: Tuberculosis (TB) Screening and Management Policy for Students**

**Regulation and Procedure Number: URP: 06.180**

**Policy Owner: Student Life**

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health and safety of the Texas Woman's University ("TWU" or "University") community by identifying, preventing, and managing tuberculosis ("TB") among students. This policy supports early detection of TB infection or disease, reduces the risk of transmission on campus, and aligns with public health guidelines.

## **APPLICABILITY**

This policy is applicable to TWU Students.

## **DEFINITIONS**

1. "Active TB Disease" means the stage of the disease after an individual can transmit TB to others by coughing and sometimes by sneezing or talking.
2. "Infectious (active) tuberculosis" means the stage of the disease after an individual can transmit TB to others by coughing and sometimes by sneezing or talking.
3. "Interferon-Gamma Release Assay ("IGRA")" means a type of whole-blood test that can aid in diagnosing TB infection. Examples include the QuantiFERON and T-SPOT tests.
4. "International Student" means a student who is not a citizen of the United States or its territories and who has entered the United States on a student visa, such as having either an F-1 Student Visa or a J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa, specifically to enroll or maintain enrollment at TWU.

5. "Latent TB Infection ("LTBI")" means an infection with TB bacteria without signs or symptoms of active disease; individuals are not contagious.
6. "Local Health Authority" means a physician appointed under the Texas Health and Safety Code to serve as a state officer within a specific local jurisdiction (such as a county or city). This individual is legally responsible for administering state and local laws relating to public health, enforcing quarantine, and overseeing the mandatory reporting of notifiable conditions to the Texas Department of State Health Services ("DSHS").
7. "Student" means a person taking courses at TWU, a person who is not currently enrolled in courses but who has a continuing academic relationship with TWU, or a person who has been admitted or readmitted to TWU.
8. "Tuberculosis Risk Assessment" means the procedure to evaluate the level of risk of exposure of individuals to airborne TB in a work area based on:
  - a. The type of work performed;
  - b. The prevalence of TB in the surrounding community and in the particular area of the facility; and
  - c. The rates of person-to-person transmission of TB.

Risk of exposure, assessed as low, intermediate, or high, determines the frequency by which affected individual must be screened for TB.
9. "Tuberculosis screening" means a medical evaluation to determine TB infection or disease, including risk assessment, testing, and diagnostic studies (e.g., IGRA, TB Skin Test, Chest X-ray).

## **REGULATION AND PROCEDURE**

### **I. TB Risk Assessment**

Students who are at risk for TB may be required to undergo a TB risk assessment through TWU Student Health Services ("SHS"). Risk factors may include, but are not limited to:

- Birth in, or extended travel to, countries with high TB prevalence.
- Close contact with an individual with known or suspected active TB.
- History of prior TB infection or disease.

- Immunocompromising conditions or therapies as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”).
- Residence or employment in high-risk congregate settings (e.g., healthcare facilities, correctional facilities, and shelters).

#### A. Screening Requirements

##### 1. International Students

- Tuberculosis screening is required for all new and recently transferred international students before their first day of class. Screening must be performed using an IGRA blood test.
  - Students who do not comply with this requirement will be blocked from registering for future terms until compliance is achieved.
  - Testing for students is available through SHS.

##### 2. Other Students Requiring Screening

- TB screening may also be required for:
  - Students identified as being at risk based on TB risk assessment.
  - Students enrolled in health-related academic programs or clinical placements.

##### 3. Acceptable Screening Methods

- IGRA blood test (required for international students; test must be conducted in the United States).
- Tuberculin Skin Test (“TST”), when clinically appropriate.
- Chest X-ray following a positive TB test.

##### 4. Timeframe for Completion

- Required TB screening must be completed before the first day of class or within the timeframe specified by SHS.

## II. Management of Positive TB Test Results

### A. Monitoring and Tracking

1. All positive TB screening tests will be tracked and monitored by SHS. Students with a positive TB screening test will work with SHS or a provider of their choice for evaluation and management.
2. All positive IGRA or TST results will be followed by a chest X-ray to evaluate for active TB disease.

#### B. Indeterminate Test Results

1. Students with indeterminate or borderline IGRA results may elect to complete a second IGRA test.
  - a. If the second test result is negative, a chest X-ray will not be required.

#### C. Treatment and Reporting

1. Students diagnosed with LTBI will be counseled regarding treatment options and may be referred for appropriate medical care.
2. Students with LTBI are required to provide a TB Clearance Statement to SHS.
3. Students diagnosed with active TB disease must follow treatment and public health guidelines and may be temporarily restricted from campus activities, in-person classes, and/or clinical placements until they are cleared by their health care provider or local health authorities.
4. Students diagnosed with active TB will be required to provide documentation of treatment through the completion of a TB Clearance Statement by their local provider or from the local health department.

### III. Documentation and Confidentiality

#### A. Documentation

1. Student TB screening results and related medical information must be submitted to SHS.
2. Student health records are maintained in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), as applicable, as well as relevant state and federal privacy laws.

#### B. Confidentiality

1. Disclosure of the TB status of a student is prohibited except as required or authorized by law.

#### IV. Non-Compliance

A. TWU students who fail to comply with TB screening requirements, treatment for active TB, infection control measures, or job restrictions and limitations may be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to:

1. Registration holds.
2. Restricted access to campus housing or clinical experiences.
3. Temporary exclusion from in-person classes or campus activities.
4. Further disciplinary action, if needed.

#### REVIEW

This policy will remain in effect and published until it is reviewed, updated, or archived. This policy is to be reviewed once every six years. Interim review may be required as a result of updates to federal and state law or regulations, Board of Regents policies, or internal processes or procedures.

#### REFERENCES

[CDC Tuberculosis Guidelines](#)

[Texas Department of State Health Services \(DSHS\)](#)

#### FORMS AND TOOLS

None

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