



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Division of Public Health

Jason Stout, MD, MHS  
Box 102359  
Duke University Medical  
Center  
Durham, NC 27710

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**To:** Local Health Department TB Programs  
**From:** Jason Stout, MD, MHS, TB Controller/Medical Director  
**Re:** Deferring baseline tuberculosis screening for new hires

The mandates of social distancing to protect our community from the COVID-19 epidemic have made baseline screening of employees and new residents of correctional facilities, nursing homes, and adult day care centers quite challenging. In the spirit of maintaining social distancing during this time, the NC Tuberculosis Control Program recommends deferring required tuberculin skin testing or interferon gamma release assay testing for the following groups for whom it is required:

- Staff with direct inmate contact upon employment
- Inmates in the custody of the Department of Corrections (both testing upon incarceration and yearly thereafter)
- Staff of licensed nursing care homes or adult care homes upon employment
- Residents upon admission to licensed nursing homes or adult care homes
- Staff in adult day care centers providing care to persons with HIV/AIDS upon employment

In addition, we would strongly encourage healthcare facilities to defer baseline employee testing as well.

People belonging to the groups above should undergo a baseline symptom screen, and appropriate evaluation including chest radiography should be performed for persons with symptoms of tuberculosis. Agencies should have a plan to track people for whom testing is deferred and to test such persons once social distancing measures are relaxed.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH; EPI/CD/TB CONTROL**

LOCATION: 1200 Front Street Suite 103, Raleigh, NC 27609  
MAILING ADDRESS: 1905 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1905  
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-755-3184 • FAX: 919-733-0084

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