



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

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MARK T. BENTON • Assistant Secretary for Public Health

Division of Public Health

September 25, 2020

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

As the COVID-19 epidemic evolves, we have a better understanding of the risks and benefits of employee screening for tuberculosis. At this time the NC Tuberculosis Control Program recommends resuming 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 encourage healthcare facilities to resume baseline employee testing as well. Employees at healthcare facilities or who belong to one of the groups listed above who had initial testing deferred should be considered for testing at this time.

These recommendations should be taken in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic, and it is acceptable to defer baseline screening at a facility if local circumstances make such screening excessively burdensome.

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

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