

Educational Supplement on Tuberculosis (TB) Infection

The 2019 MMWR CDC/NTCA recommendations include annual *education* be provided to all health care personnel (HCP). HCP TB education should include the following topics:

- Definitions including active TB disease, latent TB infection and progression/reactivation TB.
- Active TB signs and symptoms.
- TB transmission and methods to prevent transmission.
- Non-occupational risks for TB transmission, and the option (if available) for voluntary testing.
- Medical conditions that increase the risk of untreated latent TB progressing to active TB (e.g., immunocompromise).
- Latent TB infection treatment regimen options and effectiveness.

An example of annual TB risk education language is offered below. (Note that the collection of such information by Occupational Health Services is not consistent with or included in the 2019 MMWR CDC/NTCA recommendations.)

When you were hired, you were screened for tuberculosis (TB) infection.

If you have never had TB infection, you should know the risk factors for getting TB, which include:

- Spending more than 30 days in a country with an elevated TB rate since your last TB test. This includes all countries *except* those in Western Europe, Northern Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.
- Having close contact with anyone who had active TB since your last TB test.
- Spending time in a facility where TB is common. This might include jail, a homeless shelter, or time working in a health care setting in a country with an elevated TB rate.

If you have any of these risk factors for TB infection, you may wish to obtain a TB test. Contact your primary care provider to discuss voluntary testing for TB.

If you were diagnosed with TB infection and you have not completed treatment, your infection could progress to active TB disease, particularly if you have:

- Planned or current immunosuppression, including human immunodeficiency virus infection, receipt of organ transplant, treatment with TNF alpha antagonist (infliximab, etanercept or other), chronic steroids (equivalent of prednisone >15 mg/day for >1 months).

If you have any of these risk factors for your latent infection progressing to active TB disease, contact your primary care provider to discuss treatment options.

**For more information contact the Arizona Department of Health Services Tuberculosis Control (602)542-1025.*
