

TB Screening Program, Providence Schools

Upon enrollment in school, an incoming student is required to have a Tuberculin Skin Test (PPD) or TB blood test (IGRA) if any of the following indications are met:

1. Birth/residence in, or travel for at least 90 days to any country outside of the contiguous US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand or a Western/Northern European country
2. Close contact to someone with infectious TB disease during lifetime
3. Immunosuppression (current or planned): HIV infection, organ transplant recipient; treated with TNF-alpha antagonist (e.g., infliximab, etanercept, others), or immunosuppressive interleukin antagonists, steroids (equivalent of prednisone ≥ 15 mg/day for ≥ 1 month) or other immunosuppressive medication

The student's primary care physician (PCP) should perform testing. If a student does not have a primary care doctor, they may have the test done at an alternate location as directed by the Director of Nursing Services.

For students that have received a BCG vaccine, an IGRA is preferred over a PPD due to the higher risk of a false positive PPD testing.

For students that have had recent travel, it is recommended that testing be done at least 8-10 weeks post-travel to avoid false negative results

If the test is negative:

- The student should be cleared to enroll in school

If the test is positive:

- The student should be screened for the following symptoms, either by their PCP or school nurse teacher:
 - unexplained cough for more than 2-3 weeks
 - fever
 - night sweats
 - weight loss or failure to gain weight
 - lymphadenopathy
 - excessive fatigue
- Students with no symptoms may return to school while awaiting further evaluation (preferably within 90 days)
 - Further evaluation should include a CXR to be ordered by either their primary care physician or the RISE clinic (students without a PCP)

- Students with symptoms may not attend school, and need prompt evaluation by their PCP or the RISE clinic

Guidance for retesting:

- Retesting should only be done in students who previously tested negative and have new risk factors since last assessment
- Retesting should not be done in students who previously tested positive and were treated

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Fox'.

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Providence Public Schools

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