

PHN Webinar

TB Program Updates

Emily Anderson, RN, BSN

February 18, 2021



Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Dr. Angela T Dearing, *Commissioner*

New Guidance for TB Testing with COVID-19 Vaccination

January 14, 2021 the KY TB Program issued clarifications from CDC for TB testing with COVID-19 vaccination along with recommendations for compliance with internal infection control practices.

- Guidance supports initial or annual TB testing to be administered prior to the administration of the vaccine or same day.
- If vaccination had already been initiated, then TB testing should be deferred until **4 weeks after the second dose of vaccine** is administered.



TB Testing and COVID-19 Vaccination



Considerations for Interpretation of Tuberculosis Test Results and Administration of the mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine

Updated as of January 14, 2021

Please note that as the situation develops, this guidance will be updated with any changes.

The guidance below should assist with questions regarding new hires and annual Tuberculosis (TB) testing among healthcare workers as COVID-19 vaccines are being administered across the state. The following information is taken directly from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Interim Clinical Considerations document on mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines, followed by guidance from the CDC/Division of TB Elimination (in italics), and suggested recommendations from the KY TB Prevention and Control Program:

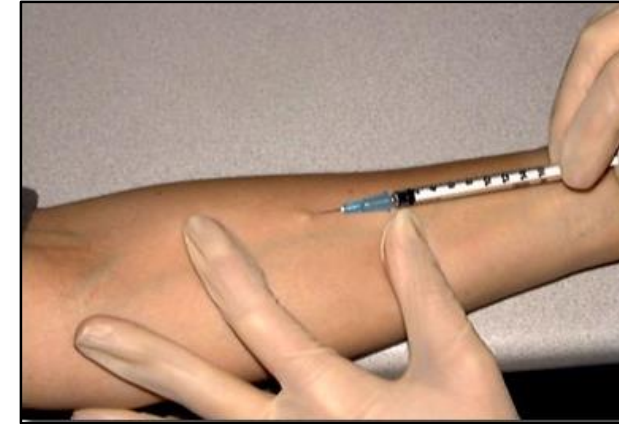
Inactive vaccines do not interfere with tuberculosis (TB) test results. There is no immunologic reason to believe either a Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) (administered by intradermal placement of 0.1 cc of purified protein derivative) or blood draw for interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) would affect the safety or effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. We have no data to inform the impact of the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines on either TB test for infection (i.e., TST or IGRA).

For healthcare personnel or patients who require baseline TB testing (at onboarding or entry into facilities) at the same time they are to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine:

- Perform TB symptom screening on all healthcare personnel or patients.
- If utilizing the IGRA, draw for interferon gamma release assay prior to COVID-19 vaccination.
- If utilizing the TST, place prior to COVID-19 vaccination.
- If vaccination has been given and testing needs to be performed, defer TST or IGRA until 4 weeks after the COVID-19 vaccine 2-dose completion.
 - All potential recipients of COVID-19 vaccination should weigh the risks and benefits of delaying TST/IGRA with their providers.

For healthcare personnel who require testing for other reasons:

- Perform TB symptom screening on all healthcare personnel.
- Test for infection should be done before or at the same time as the administration of COVID-19 vaccination. If this is not possible, prioritization of test for TB infection needs to be weighed with the importance of receiving COVID-19 vaccination based on potential COVID-19 exposures and TB risk factors.
 - Healthcare personnel with high-risk conditions for TB progression should be fully evaluated as soon as possible.
 - Healthcare personnel without high-risk conditions for TB progression should proceed with contact tracing (i.e., symptom screening, chest radiograph or other



TB Testing and COVID-19 Vaccination

Important Note

The **Kentucky Office of Inspector General (OIG)** has asked that we stress the importance for healthcare facilities to maintain regulatory compliance; therefore, facilities **MUST** update their TB Infection Control Plan to reflect if their decision is to delay testing and include dates to resume TB testing.



TB Testing and COVID-19 Vaccination

In reference to OIG's request for facilities to maintain regulatory compliance and update their TB Infection Control Plan, see 902 KAR 20:205/Section 2— "TB Infection Control Program" as a reference.

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/idb/Pages/tuberculosis.aspx>

The screenshot displays the Kentucky Department of Health (CHFS) website. At the top, there is a COVID-19 alert banner. Below the header, the navigation menu includes Services, Agencies, News, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Kentucky Tuberculosis Laws and Regulations" under the "INFECTIOUS DISEASE BRANCH". It features a "Regulation Toolkit for TB Testing in Long-Term Care Facilities and among Healthcare Workers" section, which provides training approaches and links to various resources. A sidebar on the right lists "Frequently Referenced Regulations" and "Individual TB Regulations" with links to specific Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KARs).

COVID-19 Alert - For the latest information on the novel coronavirus in Kentucky, please visit kycovid19.ky.gov

Ky.gov An Official Website of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

KENTUCKY Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Services Agencies News Contact Us

CHFS > Agencies > Department for Public Health > Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning > Infectious Disease Branch > Kentucky Tuberculosis Laws and Regulations

INFECTIOUS DISEASE BRANCH

Kentucky Tuberculosis Laws and Regulations

Regulation Toolkit for TB Testing in Long-Term Care Facilities and among Healthcare Workers

The Regulation Toolkit provides various training approaches to meet different settings and learning styles on TB testing in long-term care facility settings ([902 KAR 20:200](#)) and among healthcare workers ([902 KAR 20:205](#)).

- [Links to Web-based Training Modules](#)
- [Sample Risk Assessments](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)

Frequently Referenced Regulations

- [902 KAR 20:200](#) - Tuberculosis testing in long-term care facilities
 - [Highlights/Summary](#)
 - [FAQ](#)
- [902 KAR 20:205](#) - Tuberculosis testing for healthcare workers
 - [Highlights/Summary](#)
 - [FAQs](#)

Individual TB Regulations

- [KRS 215.531](#) - Drug susceptibility tests on initial isolates from patients with active tuberculosis
- [KRS 215.550](#) - Responsibilities of person diagnosed with active tuberculosis
- [KRS 215.560](#) - Affidavit of failure to comply - Administrative judicial action
- [KRS 215.570](#) - Violation of court order - Penalties
- [KRS 215.580](#) - Legal representation of local health department in enforcement
- [KRS 215.590](#) - Responsibility to report active tuberculosis cases and results of drug susceptibility tests on tubercle bacilli
- [KRS 215.600](#) - Title of law
- [902 KAR 2:020](#) - Disease surveillance
- [902 KAR 2:040](#) - Surveillance and screening of carriers and selected groups
- [902 KAR 2:090](#) - Tuberculosis detection, prevention, and control
- [902 KAR 20:016](#) - Hospitals: operations and services

TB Testing and COVID-19 Vaccination

- Guidelines were distributed to all infection control groups for hospitals, long-term care facilities, local health department directors, physicians, nurses, and Regional Epidemiologists.

- Links posted to
the KY TB Program website

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/idb/Pages/tuberculosis.aspx>

The screenshot shows the official website of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS). At the top, there is a red banner with the text "COVID-19 Alert - For the latest information on the novel coronavirus in Kentucky, please visit kycovid19.ky.gov". Below this is the CHFS logo and navigation links for Services, Agencies, News, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Tuberculosis (TB) Prevention and Control Program" under the "INFECTIOUS DISEASE BRANCH". It includes a section "What It Is" describing the state TB prevention program's goals. A red box highlights a section titled "COVID-19 Vaccine and TB Testing Information" which contains links to "Considerations for Interpretation of Tuberculosis Test Results and Administration of the mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine" and "Kentucky's COVID-19 Website". At the bottom, there is a section for "Kentucky Tuberculosis Data" with a link to the "TB Data Webpage".

COVID-19 Alert - For the latest information on the novel coronavirus in Kentucky, please visit kycovid19.ky.gov

Ky.gov An Official Website of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

KENTUCKY Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Services Agencies News Contact Us

CHFS > Agencies > Department for Public Health > Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning > Infectious Disease Branch > Tuberculosis (TB) Prevention and Control Program

INFECTIOUS DISEASE BRANCH

Tuberculosis (TB) Prevention and Control Program

What It Is

The state TB prevention program aims to eliminate TB as a public health issue by coordinating and focusing disease-control activities on three main goals:

- Rendering all individuals with active TB disease as non-infectious.
- Ensuring all individuals with latent TB infection remain non-infectious.
- Ensuring all individuals without TB infection do not become infected.

State employees, local health department employees and private health care providers carry out TB control activities. Funds are allocated to designated local health departments to serve as local lead agencies for the TB control program. State-level

COVID-19 Vaccine and TB Testing Information

- [Considerations for Interpretation of Tuberculosis Test Results and Administration of the mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Kentucky's COVID-19 Website](#)

Kentucky Tuberculosis Data

- [TB Data Webpage](#)


TB Testing and COVID-19 Vaccination

These recent updates and frequently asked questions were highlighted in the KY TB Program Newsletter, ***“The DOT: Discussions on Tuberculosis-Special Edition”*** released February 2, 2021

The DOT:

Discussions on Tuberculosis

The Kentucky Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program Newsletter



Special COVID-19 Edition, Vol. 2 | January 2021

In this Issue

Controller's Message	P. 1
Nurse Consulting Column	P. 2
Epidemiology Editorial	P. 6
Upcoming Training & Events	P. 8
Contact Us	P. 9

Controller's Message


Greetings TB partners! In late December 2020, Kentucky's healthcare workers, long-term care facility residents, and other essential workers began receiving the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. Our program has since received numerous questions regarding the impact these vaccines might have on tuberculosis (TB) testing, and what considerations or scheduling adjustments should be made in administering these tests.


This special edition of *The DOT* provides you with the latest updates for TB testing among healthcare workers, long-term care facility residents, and other essential workers as they continue to receive their COVID-19 vaccine series.

Please don't hesitate to contact our staff with any questions or concerns regarding this publication.

As always, we thank you for all you do!

Emily Anderson, RN, BSN
TB Controller/Program Manager
EmilyA.Anderson@ky.gov





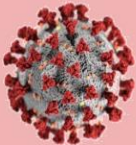
Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Special Edition, Vol. 2

COVID-19 Pandemic:

From the Virus to the Vaccine

What Does it Mean for TB?



Special COVID-19 Edition, Vol. 2

1

TB

Training and Education Updates



TB Training and Education

As we move into 2021, our Centers of Excellence and other national organizations, such as the National TB Controllers Association (NTCA) have announced that many upcoming trainings and conferences will be held virtually.

We will share more details on these events as they become available.

Similarly, it is our hope in the Kentucky TB Program that we will be able to reinstate and re-schedule our trainings and other educational events throughout this upcoming year.

New-Virtual Nurse Case Manager Orientation



TB NURSE CASE MANAGEM...

LEARN MORE

REGISTER



***New*-Virtual Nurse Case Manager Orientation**

Replaces the former two-day classroom training...

OLD Course	New Course
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traditional classroom• 2 days• Travel to Frankfort• 16 Nursing CEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual Classroom• 4 Live webinars• 40 Nursing CEs• Coach/Mentor• Self-paced (16 wks)• More content• More activities

Virtual Nurse Case Manager Orientation

- This course focuses on the nurse case management (NCM) process for tuberculosis. It was developed for nurses who are new to the field of TB and/or nurse case management.
- Through an online experiential learning platform the learner will gather resources, skills, and knowledge needed to conduct practical TB case management duties tailored to her or his specific area.
- This course provides a personal coach for optimal learning.

NCM Course Requirements



Prior to the course, if you have less than 5 years of tuberculosis experience, you must complete the following training:

- Core Curriculum on Tuberculosis
- Self-Study Modules on Tuberculosis (Modules 1-5 & Module 6)

You will be asked to show your certificates of completion to your coach in one of the first activities of the course.

Time Commitment



To successfully complete this course and receive **40** nursing continuing education hours, you must:

- Complete all activities in all badges (1-6)
- Complete an online evaluation and 4-month follow-up evaluation
- Maintain regular communication with your coach

Time Commitment

This training is self-paced.

The content and activities take approximately **40 hours** to complete. After you start the course you have up to **16 weeks** to complete it. To help you stay on track, we have provided three pacing options.

Select the pace that works for you (click the appropriate check box):

- ☐ 6-week completion Time commitment approximately 6-10 hours per week
- ☐ 12-week completion Time commitment approximately 3-6 hours per week
- ☐ 16-week completion Time commitment approximately 2-3 hours per week

Course Commitment

Due to the rigor of this course and the one-on-one coach interaction, **we require that each learner and supervisor sign this *Course Commitment* form acknowledging and committing to the course and time requirements detailed above.** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact SNTC at SNTC@medicine.ufl.edu

Learner Name: [Click to enter first and last name.](#) **Date:** [Click to enter today's date.](#)

Learner Signature: _____

Organization: [Click to enter organization name.](#)

Supervisor Name: [Click to enter first and last name.](#) **Date:** [Click to enter today's date.](#)

Supervisor Signature: _____

Supervisor Email: [Click to enter supervisor email.](#)

2



Both the Learner and their Supervisor **MUST** sign the commitment form!

Course Launch Dates

- **Kickoff**-February 22, 2021
- **Launch Date**-March 1, 2021
- **Participants**-12 local nurse case managers originally scheduled for our spring 2020 classroom orientation
- **Next course**-June 2021 (14 participants originally scheduled for our fall 2020 classroom orientation)

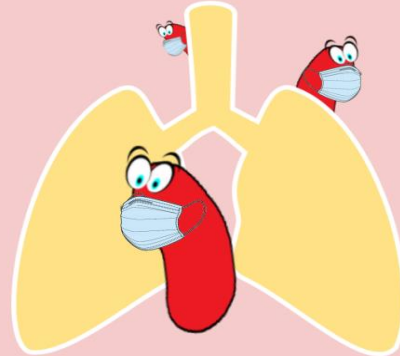
For training and education information contact:
Emily Anderson, Program Manager/TB Controller

EmilyA.Anderson@ky.gov or

(502)-564-4276 ext. 4298

Thank you!

Get the BUGS before



you give the DRUGS!



Kentucky Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.