

Undergraduate/Graduate Health Professional Programs

In addition to baseline TB screening on program entry, continuing surveillance is required throughout the program. Students must report to the Health Screening Office if previous negative tuberculin skin testing (TST) converts to positive, or if they are diagnosed with active TB disease.

**A. TB Risk Assessment:**

**Last TST negative:**

Single TST required eight or more weeks post-exposure if either of the following risk factors apply:

- Temporary or permanent residence for one or more months in a country with a high TB rate ( $\geq 30$  per 100,000 population). See map for individual country rates: <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/indicators/SH.TBS.INCD/>

Criteria for TB testing:

- \* 1 or more months in country with TB incidence  $\geq 30/100,000$  population with high-risk contact, particularly direct patient contact in a hospital or indoor setting, but possibly including work in prisons, homeless shelters, refugee camps or inner-city slums.
- \* 3 or more months in country with TB incidence  $> 400/100,000$  population
- \* 6 or more months in country with TB incidence  $200-399/100,000$  population
- \* 12 or more months in country with TB incidence  $100-199/100,000$  population
- Notified by Occupational Health or Public Health Services as having significant exposure to an individual with active (infectious) TB disease.

**Last TST positive or other positive TB history:**

While most individuals infected with TB have latent (inactive) TB infection and are not contagious, progression to active TB disease can occur at any time. It is important to be aware of the symptoms of active TB disease and to seek prompt medical attention if symptoms develop.

Symptoms of active TB disease include:

- persistent cough or fever lasting three or more weeks
- hemoptysis (coughing up blood)
- night sweats
- unexplained or involuntary weight loss

**B. NEW positive TST (Conversion):**

- Students must withdraw from clinical activities and report the positive result to their Program Manager and Health Screening Office immediately; the Health Screening Office will determine when students may return to clinical activities.
- A chest x-ray dated subsequent to the positive TST is required.
- A medical assessment should be performed under the direction of a physician. In the absence of active TB disease, a referral should be considered for assessment and treatment of latent TB infection.

For more information click here: [Tuberculosis Information](#)

**Questions?** Contact the Health Screening Office: hrsadmin@mcmaster.ca, 905-525-9140 ext 22249