

In addition to baseline TB screening on program entry, continuing surveillance is required throughout the program. Learners 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 in a country with a high TB rate ( $\geq 50$  per 100,000 population) that meets criteria for testing. See map for individual country rates: <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/indicators/SH.TBS.INCD/>

Criteria for TB testing: (adapted from Canadian Tuberculosis Standards 8<sup>th</sup> edition Chapter 13, 2.4.4)

- \* Any time in a country with TB incidence  $\geq 50/100,000$  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):**

- Learners 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 learners 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 refer to:**

[Tuberculosis Information](#)  
[Canadian Tuberculosis Standards 8th edition](#)

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