

TUBERCULOSIS TESTING

8410.01 (AR 5141.26)

Any student who is reasonably suspected of having active tuberculosis shall be excluded from attendance at a district school until the student provides evidence of a certificate showing that the student is free of communicable tuberculosis. (Health and Safety Code 121485, 121495, 121505)

The purposes of assessing children for tuberculosis upon school entry are (1) to identify opportunities for preventive treatment of tuberculosis infection and (2) to detect active tuberculosis disease in children as early as possible to reduce transmission to others.

The universal Tuberculosis Risk Assessment Policy has been adopted by the Anaheim Union High School District and is consistent with guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, California Child Health and Disability Program, California Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Branch, and California Tuberculosis Controllers Association. These guidelines take into consideration the higher rates of tuberculosis in California and support the universal risk assessment as a safe and effective approach for tuberculosis screening in low risk children.

A medical provider's risk assessment for tuberculosis infection is the universal screening requirement for entry into the District, not universal tuberculosis testing with a skin or blood test.

Only children identified by a medical provider as having one or more risk factors for tuberculosis infection are required to have a tuberculosis skin or blood test prior to school entry. Children with no risk factors identified do not require tuberculosis testing. A signature by the child's health care provider attesting to "no risk factors for tuberculosis" is sufficient for school entry for low-risk children.

The tuberculosis screening assessment must occur within one year before first entry into the District (i.e., first day of attendance at a District school).

Students shall be screened or tested for tuberculosis under the following circumstances:

1. The Tuberculosis Risk Assessment Questionnaire will be required for students coming from outside of Orange County and new to the Anaheim Union High School District in grades seven through twelve. Any child who leaves Orange County to visit or reside elsewhere for twelve months or longer must present documentation of a Tuberculosis Risk Assessment Questionnaire certificate completed within the last twelve months before re-enrolling. Students experiencing homelessness shall be conditionally enrolled for a period of 30 days regardless of tuberculosis screening, except that any child will be excluded if there are active symptoms of tuberculosis.

- a. If a tuberculosis skin test is determined to be required following the tuberculosis risk assessment questionnaire, the student will be referred to their medical provider to obtain a Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) or blood test. If those results are positive, the student will be required to obtain a lung x-ray which must be interpreted by a physician. Further course of action will be determined by the physician and/or Public Health Department. For example, if being treated for tuberculosis, the student will be excluded from school until cleared by a medical note. If being treated for Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI), then the student may attend school. If there are symptoms of tuberculosis during the period of waiting for the lung x-ray results or treatment of LTBI, the student will be excluded from school.
 - b. A TST may be delayed for up to six weeks if the child received live vaccines or had chicken pox. The student shall be conditionally enrolled during this six week period. The child will be excluded if there are active symptoms of tuberculosis or if documentation of a TST is not received at the end of this waiting period. Live vaccines can be given at the same time as the TST.
 - c. A student who has not submitted the Tuberculosis Risk Assessment or TST may be conditionally admitted provided that the student provides a Tuberculosis Risk Assessment certificate or TST results within 10 school days after admission. A student who has a positive skin test and no symptoms of active tuberculosis and has not subsequently obtained a lung x-ray, may be conditionally admitted provided that they received a lung x-ray within 20 school days after admission and pending results. Any student who fails to provide the required documentation or presents with active tuberculosis symptoms within those time periods shall be prohibited from further attendance until the student provides the appropriate documentation.
 - d. A TST or blood test performed in another country may be accepted through immigration/embassy.
2. Whenever ordered by the local health officer for the preservation and protection of public health, students seeking admission for the first time to a district school at any grade level shall submit to tuberculosis testing. Students who are subject to the health officer's order shall be admitted to school as follows:
 - a. The Superintendent or designee shall unconditionally admit any student who, prior to admission, submits a certificate signed by any public or private medical provider indicating that the student has completed an approved tuberculosis

examination and is free from active tuberculosis. (Health and Safety Code 121485, 121490, 121500; 22 CCR 41305, 41311, 41313)

The Superintendent or designee shall exempt a student from the requirement to submit a certificate if the student's parent/guardian, or the student if an emancipated minor, provides an affidavit stating that the required examination is contrary to one's personal beliefs. If there is probable cause to believe that such a student has active tuberculosis, the student may be excluded from school until the Superintendent or designee is satisfied that the student is not afflicted. (Health and Safety Code 121505)

- b. A student who has not submitted the certificate or personal beliefs affidavit may be admitted on condition that the student receives an approved tuberculin skin test within 10 school days after admission. A student who has had a positive skin test and has not subsequently obtained a chest x-ray may be admitted on condition that the student receives a chest x-ray within 20 school days after admission. Any student who fails to provide the certificate within those time periods shall be prohibited from further attendance until the certificate is provided. (Health and Safety Code 121495; 22 CCR 41315, 41327)
 - c. Whenever the local health officer so orders, a student may be required to complete an additional examination and provide another certificate indicating that the student is free of communicable tuberculosis. (Health and Safety Code 121485)
 - d. At the discretion of the local health officer, the district may admit a student without a certificate if the student is undergoing or has already undergone preventive treatment for tuberculosis infection or treatment for tuberculosis disease. (22 CCR 41319)
3. Whenever the Superintendent or designee suspects that a student who has not been examined for tuberculosis either has the disease or has been exposed, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately report by telephone to the local health officer. When required by the local health officer, the district shall exclude the student from school until the student is certified to be free of communicable tuberculosis. (22 CCR 41329)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of any student's tuberculosis examination as part of the student's mandatory permanent student record. (22 CCR 41323)

The Superintendent or designee shall annually file a report with the local health department on the results of tuberculosis examinations for all new district students required to complete such examinations in accordance with item #2 above, including, but not necessarily limited to, the

number of students unconditionally and conditionally admitted and the number of students exempted on the basis of their personal beliefs. (22 CCR 41325)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48213 Prior parent notification of exclusion; exemption

49451 Parent's refusal to consent to health examination

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

120230 Exclusion of persons from school when residence is in isolation or quarantine

121365 Duties of local health officer re: tuberculosis control

121475-121520 Tuberculosis tests for students

124025-124110 Child Health and Disability Prevention Program

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

202 Exclusion of students with contagious disease

432 Student records

3030 Eligibility for special education; tuberculosis that adversely affects educational performance

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

41301-41329 Tuberculosis tests for students

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

CHDP School Handbook: School Entry Health Examination Requirements, rev. January 2006

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

California Immunization Handbook: Pre-Kindergarten (Child-Care) and School Immunization Requirements, 10th Edition, July 2019

WEB SITES

American Lung Association: <http://www.lungusa.org>

California Department of Health Care Services: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov>

California Department of Public Health, Tuberculosis Control:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TBCB.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tuberculosis: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb>

Health Officers Association of California: <http://www.calhealthofficers.org>

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