

# Department Of Human Services Information Bulletin

**To:** Agency Providers, Distribution

**From:** Lauri Woodward, Director of Office of Program Integrity and Accountability

**Date:** 2/23/2016

**Subject:** **Testing for *M. Tuberculosis***

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In response to agency inquiries the Department of Human Services' Office of Program Integrity and Accountability recognizes that medical advances in the management of *M. tuberculosis* (TB) may facilitate modifications to the requirements for screening and testing associated with the operation of community residences for individuals with developmental disabilities or people with head injuries.

## **Background**

The standards for Community Residences for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, **N.J.A.C. 10:44A**, for Community Care Residences, **N.J.A.C. 10:44B**, and for Community Residences for Persons with Head Injuries, **N.J.A.C. 10:44C**, all require that both staff and individuals/persons served receive the Mantoux Skin Test, or physician's certification of the absence of contagion, upon admission or hire, and then annually thereafter.

## **Guidelines**

In consultation with the NJ Department of Health's Division of HIV, STD and TB Services, it has been determined that changes to the requirements for TB testing can, and should, be implemented at this time.

Specifically:

- In addition to the Mantoux Skin Test, certain Interferon Gamma Release Assays (IGRAs), blood tests have been determined by the CDC and FDA also to be acceptable to identify or rule out infection with *M. tuberculosis*. At this time, the specific FDA-approved IGRA's are **QuantiFERON-TB Gold** and **T-Spot.TB**.
- After baseline testing at the time of hire/admission, additional screening is not required unless a known or suspected exposure to *M. tuberculosis* occurs. Therefore, until such time as the Standards are amended, the Office of Licensing will no longer enforce the requirement for annual TB testing or free from contagion determinations for staff or individuals/persons served.

Please note however that there is no change to the current requirements regarding response to a known or suspected exposure to *M. tuberculosis* in any such licensed setting. The physician still is required to report this to the local Department of Health, the licensee is required to report this to the Department of Human Services, and the licensee is required to follow all instructions for further screening and/or treatment of affected staff or individuals/persons served.

The licensing standards N.J.A.C. 10:44A, N.J.A.C. 10:44B and N.J.A.C. 10:44C are available at the Department of Human services Office of Licensing website at : <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ool/licensing>