

# Referral Process for Central TB Services

## Refer all symptomatic clients to Central Tuberculosis (TB) Services as below:

- Initial phone call to Zone TB CDN for consultation is recommended

## Recommend referral for positive reactors from their Primary Care Provider to Central TB Services as below:

- Recent contacts of active TB case (regardless of age)
- TST converters (documented previous negative results within the past 2 years) (regardless of age)
- Individuals with medical conditions/therapies that increase risk of progression from LTBI to active disease (regardless of age)
- All foreign-born people less than 65 years of age who have originated from a **country with TB incidence > 200 per 100,000, and who have arrived** within the past five years. For TB incidence in individual countries see the World Health Organization TB country, regional and global profiles ([https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb\\_profiles/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb_profiles/))
- All **refugees and evacuees aged less than 65 years** originating from countries with TB incidence  $\geq 50$  per 100,000 AND have arrived in Canada within the past two years. For TB incidence in individual countries see the World Health Organization TB country, regional and global profiles ([https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb\\_profiles/](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb_profiles/))
- Travelers at high risk of exposure to TB due to travel to countries with high TB prevalence (regardless of age)
- Individuals at risk for potential occupational exposure to infectious TB (see <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/cdc/if-hp-cdc-ip-sm-tuberculin-skin-test-hcs-appdx-f-08-302.pdf>)
  - With medical risk factors (regardless of age)
  - In addition to the medical risk factors listed on the biologics page, the following additional factors should be assessed for this group only
    - Diabetes
    - Heavy alcohol consumption (>3 drinks/day)
    - Smoke at least 1 pack of cigarettes a day
    - Underweight (<90% ideal body weight; for most people, this is a body mass index <20)
  - **OR** with radiologic descriptors demonstrated on chest x-ray (regardless of age)
- Individuals in correctional institutions (regardless of age)
- Ophthalmologist referred individuals for assessment of Uveitis

## Special Considerations

- Individuals who are eligible for TST but are known to have previous positive reaction, verify follow up action(s) with “public health nurse with TB focus” on site

## Radiologic descriptors of TB

- The following descriptors may appear in radiography reports, and may suggest prior, inactive, or active TB disease:
  - suspicion of current active TB disease (e.g., upper lung zone pneumonic process, particularly if cavitating or if associated with the acinar shadows of endobronchial spread)
  - upper lobe fibronodular abnormality
  - old granulomatous disease or old tuberculosis (does not include single, isolated granuloma)
  - thoracoplasty
  - intrathoracic adenopathy with or without a lung parenchymal abnormality in an immune compromised person

## Referral Process from North, South, and Central zones

- Refer above positive reactors to their primary care provider (PCP) or most responsible healthcare provider (MRHP) for a chest radiograph, sputum for AFB/mycobacteria culture (for those who are symptomatic, screened for medical surveillance, or

contacts of active cases, 3 sputa are required, for all others, 1 sputum is required), and a TB referral (form found at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-07980.pdf>)

### **Central TB Services Contact Information**

- Phone: **780-735-1464**
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