

Tuberculosis Surveillance of BU Staff and Faculty

With Patient Facing Responsibilities



Tuberculosis Surveillance:

Boston University Occupational Health Services (inclusive of BUOHC and ROHP) is responsible for managing the Tuberculosis (TB) Surveillance Program for BU staff and faculty whose job duties include patient facing responsibilities. This policy adheres to the Center for Disease Control Tuberculosis guidelines and follows Boston Medical Center's TB policy as many BU staff and faculty access BMC facilities.

The purpose of TB screening is multifocal and allows BUOHS to perform the following:

- Rule out active TB disease prior to job placement.
- Identify Latent (inactive) TB and offer consultation for treatment of Latent TB (LTBI) if not previously received.
- Establish a baseline to guide interpretation of future tests in the event of a new exposure or new symptoms suggestive of active TB disease.

New Hire Onboarding

Individuals with no prior history of a positive TB test will complete the following:

- TB risk assessment
- TB symptom review
- Quantiferon Gold or T-spot TB (IGRA) blood test completed within 3 months of starting employment (TB skin tests are not acceptable)

Individuals with prior history of a positive TB test will complete the following:

- TB risk assessment and TB symptom review
- Provide written results of chest x-ray (CXR) completed at the time of the positive TB result.
If CXR results are not available a CXR will be arranged by BUOHS.
Provide documentation of completing Latent TB (LTBI) counseling and signed declination if drug treatment for LTBI was not accepted. If these documents are not available BUOHS will provide counseling/education and refer for treatment of LTBI or collect signed declination.

Annual Surveillance

Individuals with no history of positive TB test and a low risk of exposure or individuals previously diagnosed with LTBI with documented treatment for LTBI:

- Complete annual education to recognize TB exposure risks and symptoms

Individuals with history of positive TB test and untreated LTBI:

- TB risk assessment
- TB symptom review
- TB education

Individuals with elevated risk of work-related TB exposure as determined by Research Occupational Health (ROHP):

- TB blood test (IGRA) or TB skin test
- TB symptom review
- TB education