



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

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Tuberculosis (TB) – Expanded Screening and LTBI Treatment for U.S.-Born Populations

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Dear Colleagues:

This advisory provides updated recommendations for increasing TB activity in Marin County. Marin County Public Health (MCPH) is investigating a large TB outbreak (6 epi-linked cases). We urge healthcare providers to broaden screening strategies and prioritize treating latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI).

Background

While many active TB cases in Marin County are due to reactivation of LTBI, particularly in older adults and high-risk populations, we are currently seeing an increase in recent transmission.

Last year, Marin County Public Health (MCPH) reported 13 cases of active TB disease for an annual incidence of 5.04 /100,000 persons among Marin County residents in 2024. This is a 44% increase in TB incidence, compared with 2023 (3.49/100,000), and a 225% increase compared with 2022 (1.55 /100,000 persons). This steady increase is a concerning trend. While most TB cases have historically occurred among non–U.S.-born individuals, there is an increase in cases among U.S.-born residents. In the past year, we have also received reports of 3 TB test conversions among healthcare providers, including first responders.

Effective January 1, 2025, [AB 2132](#) requires adult patients receiving primary care services to be offered a tuberculosis (TB) test if they have any identified risk factors. Patients must also receive appropriate follow-up care or referrals based on the results. First responders, including emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics, firefighters, and law enforcement personnel, must receive annual TB risk assessments under the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) Standard (Title 8, Section 5199).

Due to the increased burden of tuberculosis in Marin County, it is more important to ensure annual screening for TB testing. First responders and health care providers who identify as increased risk are recommended to use interferon-gamma release assays (IGRAs).

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Expanded Screening Recommendations

- High-Risk U.S.-Born Individuals: Providers are strongly encouraged to screen U.S.-born individuals with the following risk factors:
- History of homelessness, incarceration, or substance use.
- Residence or employment in high-risk congregate settings (e.g., shelters, long-term care).
- Immunocompromised conditions (e.g., HIV, diabetes, immunosuppressive therapy).

LTBI Screening and Diagnosis

- Use tuberculin skin testing (TST) or interferon-gamma release assays (IGRAs).
- Rule out active TB with symptom review and chest radiograph before initiating LTBI treatment.
- Recognize that LTBI is asymptomatic and not contagious but can progress to active TB without treatment.

Treatment and Follow-Up

- Choose appropriate LTBI regimens based on patient age, comorbidities, and likelihood of adherence.
- Educate patients about the benefits of completing treatment, even without symptoms.
- Monitor for treatment adherence and adverse effects (e.g., hepatotoxicity).

Infection Control & Reporting

- Use airborne precautions for suspected active TB in healthcare settings.
- TB is a reportable condition. Health care providers must complete a [confidential online report](#) for all suspect and active tuberculosis cases among Marin County residents. Please do not wait for laboratory confirmation before reporting.

Resources

CDC TB Guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/>

LTBI Treatment Options: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/treatment/ltbi.htm>

Marin County Public Health TB Control Program:
<https://www.marinhhs.org/tuberculosis-control-program>

Sincerely,

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