

# COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

#### **PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY**

**Date:** April 14, 2025

Contact: Rick Rosen, MD, MPH, <a href="mailto:frosen@co.slo.ca.us">frosen@co.slo.ca.us</a>, 805-781-5500

## **Tuberculosis Screening Update: Assembly Bill 2132 Now in Effect**

### **Updates**

California Assembly Bill (AB) 2132, which requires adult patients receiving primary care services to be offered a Tuberculosis (TB) test if risk factors are identified, has gone into effect as of January 1, 2025. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has provided letters to the Board of Registered Nursing and the Medical Board of California informing healthcare providers of AB 2132; copies of the letters (distributed on 1/15/25) can be found on the CDPH website and are linked below:

- CDPH Link to Nursing Board Letter: www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/BRN-Letter-AB2132.pdf
- CDPH Link to Medical Board Letter: www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Medical-Board-Letter-AB2132.pdf

An FAQ document answering common questions about AB2132 can be found at <a href="https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TBCB-AB2132-FAQ.aspx">www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TBCB-AB2132-FAQ.aspx</a>

## **Guidance and Reporting**

Risk-based testing for TB infection and treatment of latent tuberculosis with a 3- or 4-month treatment regimen is recommended by the <u>US Preventative Services Task Force</u>, the <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</u>, the <u>Infectious Diseases Society of America</u> and the <u>American Academy of Pediatrics</u> in order to protect patients from developing active TB disease.

For laboratory or communicable disease consultation regarding possible or confirmed TB cases in SLO County, please contact the Public Health Department at 805-781-5500.

#### **Recent Data**

<u>In 2024</u>, California's annual TB incidence was 5.4 cases per 100,000 persons; this is **nearly double the national incidence rate**. Most California TB cases (83%) were attributable to progression of LTBI to active TB, meaning they could have been prevented with testing and treatment of LTBI. An estimated 8% of cases were in persons who arrived in California with active TB disease, and another 9% resulted from recent transmission.

## **Upcoming Webinar**

A webinar for physicians on **April 24, 2025**, offered by TB Free CA, will focus on latent tuberculosis (LTBI) best practices. Learn more and register at:

https://ucsf.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_siJaPemwR6yh7q\_bjRUTvg#/registration

Additional questions regarding CDPH trainings can be sent to <a href="mailto:TBFreeCATraining@cdph.ca.gov">TBFreeCATraining@cdph.ca.gov</a>.



# Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health



Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

The California Board of Registered Nursing is contacting you on behalf of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Please see the message below:

CDPH would like to inform all licensed California nurses about **Assembly Bill 2132**, which Governor Gavin Newson signed into law on September 29, 2024. This bill requires adult patients receiving primary care services to be offered a **Tuberculosis (TB) test** if risk factors are identified, followed by provision or referral for appropriate follow-up care. Read more about this bill here; it will take effect on January 1, 2025.

**Nurses** serve a critical role in identifying patients with <u>risk factors</u> for **latent TB infection (LTBI)** and TB disease, which includes many people born outside the U.S. in countries with higher TB prevalence. Because we do not have an effective vaccine, the most promising tool in the fight against TB is **diagnosing and treating LTBI** among people at risk for TB. Screening and treating for LTBI is recommended by CDPH, CDC, and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

An estimated **2 million Californians** have LTBI; most are unaware of infection and will not receive treatment to prevent illness with TB disease. As a reminder, there was a **substantial increase** in TB in California in 2023. The number of reported TB cases increased by 15% from 2022 to 2023. See this <a href="health advisory">health advisory</a> from February, 2024 for more information. Despite being **preventable**, TB disease continues to cause significant suffering and death in California.

For additional support with TB patient evaluation, please reach out to your local public health department: <a href="https://creativecommons.org/lease-reach-out-to-your local-public-base-reach-out-to-your local-public-base-reach-out-to-your-local

To learn more about TB/LTBI, please join the CDPH TB Control Branch for an **optional training** for nurses and other public health professionals on **February 25, 2025 from 12-1:35p PST**. This training will be held virtually via Zoom webinar. To receive **continuing education nursing units**, please pre-register at this link:

Latent TB Infection (LTBI): Opportunities for Preventing TB

Please note that this training will be similar to the one held in February of 2024. If you participated in the previous training, feel free to join us again for a refresher.



Please see the resources below for more information or contact CDPH TB Control Branch at <a href="mailto:TBFreeCATraining@cdph.ca.gov">TBFreeCATraining@cdph.ca.gov</a> with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Flood, MD, MPH

Chief, TB Control Branch

Division of Communicable Diseases Control Center for Infectious

Diseases

California Department of Public

Health

850 Marina Bay Parkway

Richmond, CA 94804-6403

#### **Additional Resources:**

- 1. CDPH TB Control Branch
- 2. TB Free California
- 3. CDC Guidelines for Diagnosis of Tuberculosis in Adults and Children
- 4. CA TB Risk Assessments
- 5. Prevent TB in 4 Steps: A Guide for Medical Providers
- 6. LTBI Counseling Adult & LTBI Counseling Pediatric
- 7. NTCA Guide for Testing and Treatment of LTBI in the U.S.



# Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health



Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

The Medical Board of California is contacting you on behalf of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), please see the message below:

The California Department of Public Health, Tuberculosis Control Branch (TBCB) would like to inform all healthcare providers about California's new Tuberculosis (TB) screening law, <u>Assembly Bill 2132</u>, which was signed into law on September 29, 2024 and takes effect on January 1, 2025. The bill requires an adult patient receiving primary care services to be offered a TB screening test if risk factors are identified, and if the patient's health insurance covers it, followed by provision or referral for appropriate follow-up care with the goal of reducing the disproportionate impact of TB among Californians.

Despite being preventable, TB disease continues to cause significant suffering and death in the state of California. Of the more than 2 million Californians with latent TB infection (LTBI), only 20 percent are aware of their diagnosis and only 12 percent have been treated. TB disproportionately impacts subgroups defined by race, ethnicity, and place of birth in California and urgently needs addressing from a health equity lens.

Primary care providers serve a critical role in identifying patients with risk factors for TB infection. Because we do not have an effective vaccine (the Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine does not offer lifelong protection from TB disease), the most promising tool in the fight against TB is diagnosing and treating LTBI. Screening and treatment for LTBI is recommended by CDPH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

For additional support with TB patient evaluation, please reach out to your local public health department: <a href="CTCA Directory of TB Control Staff">CTCA Directory of TB Control Staff</a> in California and read more about the bill linked below, including specific exemptions where the requirement does not apply such as in the emergency department. Of note, the bill prohibits disciplinary action related to medical licensure or civil or criminal liability for healthcare providers who fail to comply with the new regulation. Additional resources for healthcare providers evaluating patients for LTBI can also be found below.

CDPH TBCB will be holding a webinar about LTBI best practices, aimed at MD/DOs, on Thursday April 24, 12-1:30 pm. Registration link:

Latent TB Infection (LTBI): Opportunities for Preventing TB



Please see the resources below for more information or contact CDPH TB Control Branch at <a href="mailto:TBFreeCATraining@cdph.ca.gov">TBFreeCATraining@cdph.ca.gov</a> with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Flood, MD, MPH

Chief, TB Control Branch
Division of Communicable Diseases Control Center for Infectious Diseases
California Department of Public Health
850 Marina Bay Parkway
Richmond, CA 94804-6403

#### **Additional Resources:**

- <u>Assembly Bill 2132 Language:</u> leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\_id=202320240AB2132
- California TB Controllers Association Press Release on AB 2132: ctca.org/coalition-for-a-tb-free-ca/resources/
- <u>TB in California 2023 Snapshot:</u> cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TB-in-California-2023-Snapshot.aspx
- <u>U.S. Preventative Service Task Force recommendations for LTBI:</u> jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2804319
- <u>Healthcare Provider Resources and Tools for LTBI:</u>
   cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TB\_Provider\_Resources.aspx
- TB Control Directory by County In California: ctca.org/wp-content/uploads/CTCA-Directory.pdf

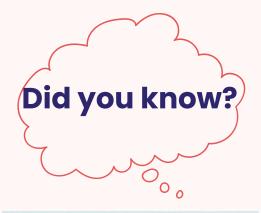
# LATENT TB INFECTION (LTBI): OPPORTUNITIES FOR PREVENTING TB

A Free Virtual Training (with 1.5 CEU/CME's) for California Clinicians and Other Public Health Professionals

# THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH, 2025 12:00-1:35PM PST

PRESENTED BY SHEREEN KATRAK, MD, MPH & KRISTEN WENDORF, MD, MPH

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TB CONTROL BRANCH



More than 2 million Californians have LTBI, including many children, and most are untreated.

There was a substantial increase (15%) in new TB cases in California between 2022 and 2023.

## **Training Objectives**

By the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Identify persons at higher risk for tuberculosis (TB) who should be tested for TB infection
- Describe and apply how to test for TB infection, including the preferential use of interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) testing for non-U.S.-born persons
- Describe and advise on/facilitate the proper clinical evaluation needed to distinguish latent TB infection (LTBI) from TB disease
- Describe and advise on/provide the preferred short-course treatment regimens for LTBI to improve treatment completion outcomes

## This training will be held virtually via Zoom.

To receive continuing education units, you must pre-register at this link: <a href="https://ucsf.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_siJaPemwR6yh7q\_bjRUTvg">https://ucsf.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_siJaPemwR6yh7q\_bjRUTvg</a>
After registering, you will receive an email with the Zoom link and otherper tinent information.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Curry International Tuberculosis Center and TB Free California.

The Curry International Tuberculosis Center is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. This training is approved for up to 1.50 continuing education hours. The Curry International Tuberculosis Center designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1.50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>TM</sup>. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The Curry International Tuberculosis Center is approved as a provider of continuing education by the California State Board of Registered Nurses, Provider Number CEP 12308. This training is approved for up to 1.50 continuing education hours. Board requirements prevent us from offering CE credit to people who arrive more than 15 minutes after the start of the training, or leave the training early. Therefore, partial credit will not be awarded.





