

Please give this letter to your doctor if you choose to see your own doctor for evaluation rather than attending a Cook County Department of Public Health testing event or clinic.

Dear Clinician,

This person has been notified by the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) that they may have been exposed to tuberculosis (TB).

CCDPH is providing free testing for Cook County residents who have been recently exposed to TB. Testing through CCDPH also enables rapid tracking of results as part of the ongoing public health investigation. However, this person may pursue testing at private clinics. If you proceed with evaluation of this person, to ensure consistent testing and tracking, we are requesting that you follow the instructions below:

1) Please notify CCDPH that you are providing TB evaluation for the person who presented this letter, to assist CCDPH in monitoring this investigation. Contact CCDPH's Communicable Disease Unit – TB Program at (312) 835-0559 and be prepared to share the patient's name, date of birth, and results of the following evaluation (*even if negative*).

2) Screen for the following concerning symptoms that may suggest active TB disease:

- Cough lasting two or more weeks,
- Coughing up blood or blood-streaked sputum,
- Unintentional weight loss or loss of appetite,
- Fever > 1 week duration,
- Drenching night sweats.

AND order TB testing with a blood interferon-gamma release assay (TB IGRA; e.g., QuantiFERON-TB)

3) **IF EITHER** the symptom screening **OR** the TB IGRA test is POSITIVE:

A) Obtain a PA/lateral chest x-ray and refer the patient to the CCDPH TB clinics for further evaluation (708-836-3300).

AND

B) Report any positive result (symptom screen or TB IGRA test result) to CCDPH. Such results may be faxed to our Communicable Disease Unit at 708-836-8697.

4) **IF BOTH** the symptom screening **AND** the TB IGRA test are NEGATIVE, **REPEAT** symptom screening and testing with a TB IGRA blood test 8-10 weeks after the last possible date of exposure (September 10, 2026).

A) If **BOTH** the repeat symptom screening **and** repeat TB IGRA test are NEGATIVE at this point, no further evaluation is necessary.

B) If **EITHER** the repeat symptom screening **and/or** repeat IGRA test is POSITIVE, follow the instructions in 3A and 3B.

Patients with positive TB IGRA testing, but negative symptom screening and negative chest x-rays should be offered TB preventive therapy. They may be referred to CCDPH TB clinics for this treatment.

Patients with significant immune compromise (conditions including pregnancy, active malignancy on chemotherapy, history of stem cell or solid organ transplant, HIV/AIDS, autoimmune disease on steroids/immunosuppressive medications) should be screened for TB per this document's instructions and offered window prophylaxis (TB preventive therapy) until repeat TB IGRA testing is performed in mid-November. Window prophylaxis may be discontinued if the repeat TB IGRA result is negative.

Clinical Support

Any patient requiring further assessment after a positive symptom screening, preventive TB treatment, or treatment for active TB can be referred at any time to CCDPH TB clinics at (708) 836-3300 or (312) 835-0559.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact CCDPH at cd_tb_ccdph@cookcountyhhs.org.

Thank you for your assistance with the evaluation and management of this patient.