



California Tuberculosis Risk Assessment Adults



- Use this tool to identify asymptomatic **adults** for latent TB infection (LTBI) testing.
- **Do not repeat testing** unless there are **new risk factors** since the last test.
- Do not treat for LTBI until active TB disease has been excluded:
For patients with TB symptoms or an abnormal chest x-ray consistent with active TB disease, evaluate for active TB disease with a chest x-ray, symptom screen, and if indicated, sputum AFB smears, cultures and nucleic acid amplification testing. A negative tuberculin skin test or interferon gamma release assay does not rule out active TB disease.

LTBI testing is recommended if any of the boxes below are checked.

- Birth, travel, or residence** in a country with an elevated TB rate for at least 1 month
 - Includes any country other than the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or a country in western or northern Europe
 - If resources require prioritization within this group, prioritize patients with at least one medical risk for progression (see the California Adult Tuberculosis Risk Assessment User Guide for this list).
 - Interferon Gamma Release Assay is preferred over Tuberculin Skin Test for non-U.S.-born persons ≥ 2 years old

- Immunosuppression**, current or planned
HIV infection, organ transplant recipient, treated with TNF-alpha antagonist (e.g., infliximab, etanercept, others), steroids (equivalent of prednisone ≥ 15 mg/day for ≥ 1 month) or other immunosuppressive medication

- Close contact** to someone with infectious TB disease during lifetime

Treat for LTBI if LTBI test result is positive and active TB disease is ruled out.

- None**; no TB testing is indicated at this time.

Provider Name: _____

Assessment Date: _____

Patient Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

See the California Adult Tuberculosis Risk Assessment User Guide for more information about using this tool. To ensure you have the most current version, go to the RISK ASSESSMENT page at: <https://cdph.ca.gov/tbcb>





California Adult TB Risk Assessment User Guide



Avoid testing persons at low risk

Routine testing of persons without risk factors is not recommended and may result in unnecessary evaluations and treatment because of falsely positive test results.

Prioritize persons with risks for progression

If health system resources do not allow for testing of all non-U.S. born persons from a country with an elevated TB rate, prioritize patients with at least one of the following medical risks for progression:

- diabetes mellitus
- smoker within past 1 year
- end stage renal disease
- leukemia or lymphoma
- silicosis
- cancer of head or neck
- intestinal bypass/gastrectomy
- chronic malabsorption
- body mass index ≤ 20
- History of chest x-ray findings suggestive of previous or inactive TB (no prior treatment). Includes fibrosis or non-calcified nodules, but does not include solitary calcified nodule or isolated pleural thickening. In addition to LTBI testing, evaluate for active TB disease.

United States Preventive Services Task Force

The USPSTF has recommended testing persons born in or former residents of, a country with an elevated tuberculosis rate and persons who live in or have lived in high-risk congregate settings such as homeless shelters and correctional facilities. Because the increased risk of exposure to TB in congregate settings varies substantially by facility and local health jurisdiction, clinicians are encouraged to follow local recommendations when considering testing among persons from these congregate settings. The USPSTF did not review data supporting testing among close contacts to persons with infectious TB or among persons who are immunosuppressed because these persons are recommended to be screened by public health programs or by clinical standard of care.

Children

This risk assessment tool is intended for adults. A risk assessment tool created for use in California for children is available at the following URL:
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/tb/Documents/TBCB-CA-Pediatric-TB-Risk-Assessment.pdf>

Local recommendations

Local recommendations and mandates should also be considered in testing decisions. Local TB control programs can customize this risk assessment according to local recommendations. **Providers should check with local TB control programs for local recommendations.**

A directory of TB Control Programs is available at the following URL: <https://www.ctca.org/locations.html>

Mandated testing and other risk factors

Several risk factors for TB that have been used to select patients for TB screening historically or in mandated programs are not included among the components of this risk assessment. This is purposeful in order to focus testing on patients at highest risk. However, certain populations may be mandated for testing by statute, regulation, or policy. This risk assessment does not supersede any mandated testing. Examples of these populations include: healthcare workers, residents or employees of correctional institutions, substance abuse treatment facilities, homeless shelters, and others.

Age as a factor

Age (among adults) is not considered in this risk assessment. However, younger adults have more years of expected life during which progression from latent infection to active TB disease could develop. Some programs or clinicians may additionally prioritize testing of younger non-U.S.-born persons when all non-U.S.-born are not tested. An upper age limit for testing has not been established but could be appropriate depending on individual patient TB risks, comorbidities, and life expectancy.

Foreign travel

Travel to countries with an elevated TB rate may be a risk for TB exposure in certain circumstances (e.g., extended duration, likely contact with persons with infectious TB, high prevalence of TB in travel location, non-tourist travel). The duration of at least 1 consecutive month to trigger testing is intended to identify travel most likely to involve TB exposure. TB screening tests can be falsely negative within the 8 weeks after exposure, so are best obtained 8 weeks after return from travel.

