

The County of Yuba



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Jennifer Vasquez, Director

5730 Packard Ave., Suite 100, P.O. Box 2320, Marysville, California 95901
Phone: (530) 749-6311 FAX: (530) 749-6281

Nichole Quick, MD, MPH
Health Officer
Phone: (530) 749-6366

February 28, 2017

UPDATED TB SCREENING REQUIRMENTS FOR THE SCHOOL AGED POPULATION

Dear Superintendents and Principals:

After careful review of the most current public health and medical guidelines, Yuba County Public Health is updating its policy regarding TB testing/screening of students entering school in Yuba County.

Effective April 1, 2017, the policy will consist of universal screening and targeted testing of students at elevated risk for TB. The role of schools in maintaining documentation of TB screening will involve collecting the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program "Report of Health Examination for School Entry" which is required for all children entering first grade. Risk based screening and targeted testing for TB is an existing requirement of CHDP and schools are already routinely collecting this form. Schools will no longer be required to complete the separate Yuba County TB screening form.

Yuba County Public Health will work with schools and providers to emphasize the importance of the first grade entry school physical. Additionally, efforts will be made to ensure that providers have access to TB screening and testing guidelines.

Please contact Yuba County Public Health at (530) 749-6366 with any questions or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Nichole Quick, MD, MPH
Health Officer Yuba County

The County of Yuba



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Jennifer Vasquez, Director

5730 Packard Ave., Suite 100, P.O. Box 2320, Marysville, California 95901
Phone: (530) 749-6311 FAX: (530) 749-6281

Nichole Quick, MD, MPH
Health Officer
Phone: (530) 749-6366

Updated Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Requirements for the School Aged Population

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Tuberculosis (TB)?

TB is a bacterial disease spread from person to person through the air.

Common myths about TB:

1. **Myth:** Being infected with TB (positive skin test or blood test) means you have active TB

Fact: Infection does not necessarily mean disease:

TB Infection	TB Disease
Has no symptoms	Has symptoms
Cannot spread TB bacteria to others	May spread TB bacteria to others
Usually has a positive skin test or blood test	Usually has positive skin test or blood test
Has a normal chest x-ray and a negative sputum smear	May have an abnormal chest x-ray, and/or positive sputum smear, and/or positive culture
Needs treatment for TB Infection to prevent developing active TB disease in the future	Needs treatment for active TB disease

2. **Myth:** TB testing is the same as TB screening

Fact: Testing for TB is not the same as screening for TB:

TB Screening	TB Testing
Risk assessment (series of questions) performed by clinician	Skin test (TST) or blood test (IGRA)
If deemed higher risk, test for TB infection is done	If positive, then chest x-ray is done

What is the current TB School Mandate?

The Yuba County Public Health Division of Health and Human Services Department currently requires all children entering kindergarten or 7th grade, or attending a California school for the first time, to complete a separate Yuba County TB risk questionnaire before starting school.

Common myths about the TB School Mandate:

1. **Myth:** The school mandate is used to find and treat children with active TB disease
Fact: TB control utilizes contact investigations to find active TB cases of all ages.
2. **Myth:** Without the TB School Mandate there will be no monitoring of TB cases in place.
Fact: The Yuba County Public Health Division will continue to monitor pediatric TB cases to ensure they do not rise.
3. **Myth:** The school mandate is an effective means of getting children with active TB disease treated.
Fact: Monitoring is not in place to ensure that children who test positive for TB infection begin treatment. There is evidence to suggest that many of those who do begin treatment do not complete the full treatment regimen.
4. **Myth:** If the mandate is not in place there will be an increase in pediatric cases of TB in Yuba County.
Fact: Other California Counties without a TB school mandate have continued to see fewer cases of TB in children.

What is the planned new approach?

- Rescind the current TB School Mandate for children entering kindergarten, 7th grade, or a California school for the first time.
- The new policy will consist of universal screening and targeted testing of students at elevated risk for TB.
- TB screening will involve collecting the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program "Report of Health Examination for School Entry" which is required for all children entering first grade.
- Health providers, as part of this routine health assessment, would screen students and only test for TB if a risk factor is present.
- This new approach will also refer children to medical providers where their health can be fully evaluated so they can receive comprehensive care.

Why change it?

- To prevent false positive children from receiving treatment regimens that may be harmful.
- To promote evidence-based best practice.
- To focus on interventions better suited for finding active TB disease cases and reducing active TB disease rates.
- To prevent fragmented care and promote comprehensive care.

Where can I get a physical exam for my first grader?

The school entry health examination is provided by the family's usual source of medical care, including, but not limited to: private doctors, community clinics, and military facilities.

**Please contact Yuba County Public Health Division with any additional questions:
(530) 749-6366**