



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

nyc.gov/health

February 6, 2007

Dear Colleague:

Happy New Year! As you know, QuantiFERON[®]-TB Gold (QFT-G) is the new FDA approved blood-based test for tuberculosis (TB) infection. We are very excited to inform you that QFT-G testing is now available at Bureau of TB Control chest centers. We also want to let you know about some important new changes related to TB in the New York City health code, including acceptance of either the blood-based test or TB skin test for diagnosis of TB.

QFT-G TESTING AVAILABLE AT BUREAU OF TB CONTROL CHEST CENTERS

The Bureau of TB Control recently began offering QFT-G testing at the some of our chest centers (see attached list). QFT-G is now the standard test for TB infection at these clinics. The test is free and we have created a fact sheet for patients containing information about the test (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/tb/tb-fact-quantiferon.pdf>). We are working on implementing QFT-G testing in the remaining chest clinics in the first half of 2007.

SEVERAL RECENT CHANGES TO THE NEW YORK CITY HEALTH CODE

1. All sections of the health code pertaining to TB testing requirements were amended so that a tuberculin skin test (TST) administered using the Mantoux method **or a FDA approved blood-based tuberculosis diagnostic test** may be used to meet the testing requirement. Currently, QFT-G is the only FDA approved blood-based test for TB infection. Please note that health care workers are still required to get a TST using the Mantoux method until New York State amends their regulations to include blood-based tests. We will keep you abreast of this change.
2. As with a positive TST, a positive blood-based tuberculosis diagnostic test in a child younger than 5 years old should be reported to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.
3. The requirements for testing employees and volunteers at day care facilities were also recently amended. Staff at day care facilities are required to get tested for TB infection at hire only. **They are no longer required to have annual TB tests.**
4. The health code previously required that household employees (those working 8 or more hours in a household with children under 6 years old) were required to get tested for TB infection at hire and then annually, however, this article was repealed and now **household employees are no longer required to get tested for TB.**

For more details on these changes and a complete summary of all TB-related health code issues, see our “TB and the Law” document (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/tb/tb-law.pdf>).

Sincerely,



Sonal Munsiff, MD
Director, Assistant Commissioner

Bureau of TB Control Chest Centers Offering QFT-G Testing

Brooklyn		
Bedford Chest Center	485 Throop Avenue, 3 rd floor Brooklyn, NY 11221 718-574-2462	Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Brownsville Chest Center	259 Bristol Street, 3 rd floor Brooklyn, NY 11212 718-495-7256	1 st , 3 rd , and 5 th Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Bushwick Chest Center	335 Central Avenue, 2 nd floor Brooklyn, NY 11221 718-573-4886	Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Fort Greene Chest Center	295 Flatbush Avenue Ext, 4 th floor Brooklyn, NY 11201 718-643-8357 or 6551	Monday & Thursday 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Manhattan		
Chelsea Chest Center	303 Ninth Avenue, 3 rd floor New York, NY 10001 212-239-1757/3034	Monday to Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Queens		
Corona Chest Center	34-33 Junction Blvd., 2 nd floor Corona, NY 11372 718-476-7635	Monday & Thursday 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM