

**Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Montgomery County Public Schools**

TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION/MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Dear Parent of _____ **Date** _____

In an effort to keep our school children safe and healthy, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services Tuberculosis Control Program recommends tuberculosis screening for all foreign-born students from any country other than the U.S as well as for all students, regardless of country of birth, who have lived outside the U.S. for 12 months or more prior to entry into the U.S.

The basis for this recommendation is that in Montgomery County, the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) is most prevalent in the foreign born population. Annually in Montgomery County, 85% - 90% of tuberculosis cases are diagnosed in people born outside of the U.S.

In many foreign countries, BCG vaccine is given to prevent tuberculosis. Tuberculosis screening by skin test is not contraindicated for people who have been vaccinated with BCG.

Tuberculosis screening identifies infected students at risk of developing TB who would benefit from preventive therapy and also identifies students who need treatment for TB disease thus ensuring early intervention to prevent the spread of tuberculosis to others.

Students who are candidates for preventive therapy or for treatment of tuberculosis will receive complete case management and treatment by the TB Control Program staff in collaboration with the School Health Services staff at no cost to their families.

Evidence of freedom from active tuberculosis disease consists of **one** of the following:

- Documentation of a negative skin test.
- Documentation of a positive skin test, a negative chest x-ray and no symptoms of tuberculosis.
- Documentation of a positive skin test, negative chest x-ray, adequate TB preventive therapy and no symptoms of tuberculosis.
- Documentation of adequate treatment of tuberculosis and no symptoms of tuberculosis.

If your child was born in a foreign country or lived outside the U.S. for 12 months or more, please have your child's health care provider provide the recommended tuberculosis testing and documentation. Testing and documentation may also be obtained at the locations listed on the back of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse at _____.

Sincerely,

Principal

School Nurse

Montgomery County Resources for Tuberculosis Testing:

The PPD tuberculosis skin test is administered on the first visit and then read 2 – 3 days (48 – 72 hours) later.

PPD testing is available at:

TB Control Program, Dennis Avenue Health Center

2000 Dennis Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902

240-777-1800

Tuesdays, 8am – 12 noon and 1pm – 4pm

School Health Services Center

4910 Macon Road, Rockville, MD 20852

301-468-4529

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Call for the days and times when services are available at the locations below:

Germantown Health Center, 12900 Middlebrook Rd., Germantown 240-777-3380

Piccard Drive Health Center, 1335 Piccard Drive, Rockville 240-777-3987

Silver Spring Health Center, 8630 Fenton St, Silver Spring 240-777-3160

Chest x-rays are available at:

TB Control Program, Dennis Avenue Health Center

2000 Dennis Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902

240-777-1800

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8am – 12 noon and 1pm – 4pm

Wednesday, 9am – 12 noon and 1pm – 4pm