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January 22, 2026

## **UPDATED TB SCREENING REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOLS TK-12**

Dear Superintendents and Principals,

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious airborne infectious disease and remains a public health concern in Los Angeles County (LAC), which consistently reports among the highest numbers of TB disease cases in the U.S. Since 2023, TB-related deaths have increased locally, particularly among older adults. Early identification and treatment of TB infection can prevent serious illness and further spread.

To support prevention efforts, the LAC Department of Public Health is issuing an update on TB screening requirements for school-aged children. These are consistent with the California TB Controllers Association's [2024 Position on TB Evaluation of School Age Children](#).

### **Who is Affected and When**

Effective February 1, 2026, in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 121475-121520:

- All new students enrolling in TK-12 in a LAC school district must complete the [LAC Pediatric TB Risk Assessment](#).
- If risk factors are identified, additional medical evaluation is required to confirm the student does not have infectious TB.

Local school districts may also choose to conduct additional TB risk assessments, e.g. at 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 9<sup>th</sup> grade, based on local patterns of TB risk among their student population.

### **What Schools Need to Know**

The TB risk assessment:

- Should be done by the student's primary care provider, where other care is given including vaccines and routine pediatric care.
- May be completed by a school nurse or other licensed clinical provider (e.g. NP, RN, LVN, PA, MD, DO) for students who do not yet have a medical home, with urgent referral to a medical home to establish care and to follow up on TB testing after identification of a TB risk factor.

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- Must be performed within one year before or up to 90 days after the date of first school entry into an LAC school district.
- Requires completed risk assessment documentation to be submitted to the school district by the parent or health care provider. If a TB risk is identified, a TB clearance form must be completed by the student's health care provider to complete the TB screening requirement.

Students should not be excluded from school or school activities while TB evaluation is in progress. The only exception is when a child older than 10 years has symptoms concerning for infectious TB.

For any questions or additional information, please visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/tb/> or contact the LAC TB Control Program at [tbc@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:tbc@ph.lacounty.gov) or (213) 745-0800, Option 2 (Health educations).

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and safety of LAC and to the goal of eliminating TB in LAC and California.

Sincerely,



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Muntu Davis, M.D., M.P.H.

Health Officer

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health