



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

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

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

A person whose tuberculin skin test (TST) result is positive should undergo a chest radiograph to rule out active tuberculosis (TB) disease. A physician uses the chest radiograph results, as well as the medical history and physical examination, to determine the appropriate follow up.

If the initial chest radiograph is negative for active TB disease, no follow-up films are recommended or indicated for an asymptomatic TST-positive person. Some employers still recommend routine follow-up chest radiographs at regular intervals; such radiographs are not indicated, nor are they recommended by city, state, or federal health agencies.^{1,2,3}

After an initial film is negative for active TB, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene chest centers do not perform follow-up chest radiographs on asymptomatic TST-positive persons. If completion of a follow-up film is a condition of employment, individuals or employers may contact the Director of Medical Affairs, Bureau of Tuberculosis Control, at (212) 442-9968. The program will advise employers to bring their policies into accordance with city, state, and federal recommendations.

Chest radiographs should be obtained on all patients with suspected or confirmed active TB as indicated, regardless of when the TST was done.

Sincerely,

Sonal S. Munsiff, M.D.
Director, Bureau of Tuberculosis Control
Assistant Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene
New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene

- 1 New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Tuberculosis Control. *Clinical Policies and Protocols*, 3rd ed., 1999. Call (212) 442-9968 to request copies of the relevant portions of this publication.
- 2 New York State Department of Health, Tuberculosis Program, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control. Recommendations for tuberculosis surveillance in schools. State of New York - Department of Health Memorandum. Health Facilities Series: PH-1, Jan. 5, 1988.
- 3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidelines for preventing the transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Health Care Facilities, 1994. *MMWR* 1994;43(RR-13):40.

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