



Catherine B. Templeton, Director

*Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment*

## MEMO

**TO:** South Carolina Schools, c/o Department of Education

**FROM:** Department of Health and Environmental Control, Division of Public Health

**DATE:** July 31, 2013

**RE:** Tuberculosis Requirements for Schools

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As you prepare for the return of students this fall, DHEC reminds you that all new hires should be evaluated for tuberculosis (“TB”). In the mid-20th Century, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization determined that the way to control and manage tuberculosis was through prevention. While one in three people in the world carry the tuberculosis germ, preventing that germ from becoming infectious to other people is a matter, in most cases, of taking a course of medicine.

In keeping with this approach, DHEC has long supported requirements for the protection of our school children through prevention. The legislature enacted laws, found in SC Code Sections 44-29-150 and 160, requiring appropriate evaluation for tuberculosis prior to being hired to work in any public or private schools, kindergartens, and day cares. The law also requires applicants to present a health certificate from a licensed physician certifying that the applicant does not have active tuberculosis. Both DHEC and the Department of Education promulgated regulations completing the law. S.C Reg. 61-22 and 43-237.1.

Under the regulations, new employees must have a tuberculin skin test prior to employment, and any employees without a documented test must be tested for continued employment. Schools must maintain a DHEC Form 1420 (enclosed for reference) for each employee showing the results of the required screening. Employees who have previously tested positive for the TB germ must have their records reviewed by a licensed physician. If the employee completed a prescribed course of preventive treatment, no further evaluation is required. If the employee did not complete preventive treatment, the DHEC Form 1420 for the employee must note that the individual is considered to be infected and remains at life-long risk of developing TB disease. New or regular employees with a history of tuberculosis disease must have their records reviewed by a licensed physician certifying them as non-infectious, on DHEC Form 1420 to be kept on file in their school personnel record. Employees who are found to have current or past tuberculosis disease shall not be allowed to work until the individual receives written certification by a licensed physician that the individual is non-contagious.

The reason behind the law is important. If an individual has the TB germ, even if the person is not currently infectious, the person must take the complete course of medicine that will prevent the employee from becoming infectious and possibly exposing others.

Additionally, please remind your schools that DHEC is limited by privacy laws in communicating protected health information with the parents and staff in any school regarding TB outbreaks. DHEC is permitted to contact those individuals found by our investigation to be at risk of exposure, but we do not have access to the private contact information of students, parents, and teachers.

The State School Nurse Consultant, employed jointly by the Department of Education and DHEC, is a valuable resource for schools that have questions about TB. Please contact us if you have any questions.

**Contact:** Cathy Young-Jones  
School Nurse Consultant  
[youngjcm@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:youngjcm@dhec.sc.gov)  
(803) 898-0850



## School Employee/Individual Certificate of Evaluation for Tuberculosis

Name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Residence Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Public or private school, kindergarten, nursery or day care center of current employment or other employer or individual \_\_\_\_\_ Date employed \_\_\_\_\_

TEST RESULTS	<b>TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST</b> _____ <small>Date Given</small> <b>5 TU PPD MANTOUX METHOD</b> _____mm _____ <small>Date Interpreted</small>	<b>CHEST X-RAY</b> Date _____ Interpretation _____	<b>REMARKS</b>
DISPOSITION	<input type="checkbox"/> No tuberculosis infection per 5 TU PPD <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis infection, no evidence of disease <input type="checkbox"/> Preventive treatment started _____ and completed _____ <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Preventive treatment started _____ but not completed <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Preventive treatment not prescribed/refused <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> History of tuberculosis disease Treatment started _____ and completed _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Current tuberculosis disease <input type="checkbox"/> Non-contagious as of _____ and medically cleared to start/resume school/other employment on _____ <sup>1</sup> No further routine screening required. <sup>2</sup> Remains at lifelong risk of developing tuberculosis.		
CERTIFICATION	<input type="checkbox"/> This is to certify that I have examined the school employee named herein for tuberculosis and report my findings as indicated above pursuant to the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended April 24, 1979. <input type="checkbox"/> This is to certify that I have examined the individual named herein for tuberculosis and report my findings as indicated above.  Physician's Signature _____ Date _____		

DHEC 1420 (08/1998)

**DISPOSITION:** This form shall be retained in the files of the current employer or individual following evaluation and certification.



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**DISPOSITION:** This form shall be retained in the files of the current employer or individual following evaluation and certification.

**SCHOOL EMPLOYEE/INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATE OF EVALUATION FOR TUBERCULOSIS:** This form may be used for school employees or other individuals who need documentation of tuberculosis evaluation. It should be maintained in the current employer's file for school employees and by employer or individual for other needs.

**CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1975, AS AMENDED APRIL 1979. SECTION 44-29-150.** No person will be initially hired to work in any public or private school, kindergarten, nursery or day care center for infants and children until appropriately evaluated for tuberculosis according to guidelines approved by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Re-evaluation will not be required for employment in consecutive years unless otherwise indicated by such guidelines.

**SECTION 44-29-170.** Any person applying for a position in any of the public or private schools, kindergartens, nurseries or day care center for infants and children of the State shall, as a prerequisite to employment, secure a health certificate from a licensed physician certifying that such person does not have tuberculosis in an active stage.

**SECTION 44-29-170.** The physician shall make the aforesaid certificate on a form supplied by the Department of Health and Environmental Control, whose duty it shall be to provide such forms upon request of the applicant.

**SUMMARY OF GUIDELINES OF The DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL.** (Regulation 61-22) Each employee shall have, prior to employment, unless so previously tested, as a condition for further employment, a tuberculin skin test performed by intradermal injection of 6 tuberculin units of purified protein derivative of tuberculin (Mantoux test with 5 TU or PPD). Employees with test reactions measuring less than 10mm shall not require any further routine screening. Employees whose test reactions measure 10mm or more shall have a chest x-ray, and where indicated sputum cultures. Results of the skin test and x-ray shall be recorded on the DHEC form 1420 which shall be kept in the files of the school principal/designee. These forms shall be subject to review by DHEC. If the chest x-ray (and examination of sputum, if necessary) shows evidence of current tuberculosis disease, the employee shall not be allowed to work until he/she receives written certification from DHEC that he/she is no-contagious. Employees whose skin test reactions measure 10mm or more and who have a normal chest x-ray shall be evaluated for preventive therapy for their tuberculous infection. If preventive therapy is not prescribed, or is prescribed, but refused, a notation shall be made on the employee's certificate that he/she is considered to be infected with tubercle bacilli and remains a lifelong risk of developing tuberculosis disease. Testing other than that described above, shall be required only if there is epidemiological evidence that employees, attendees, or students in the school, nursery, day care center or kindergarten have become infected or infectious with tuberculosis.

DHEC-1420 (08/1998)

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