

Thomas O. Forslund, Director

December 22, 2015

Governor Matthew H. Mead

Ref: PHSS-2015-342

Re: TB screening recommendations in health care settings

To whom it may concern:

In 2005, CDC published new Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* (TB) in Health-Care Settings, 2005. The Wyoming Department of Health is in the process of updating Wyoming recommendations for screening health care workers that are consistent with these CDC guidelines.

The WDH TB Program recommends that every facility in Wyoming which performs TB screening for their healthcare employees update their policies and procedures along with these recommendations. Tools to assist in this process are located on the TB Program website at <http://health.wyo.gov/phsd/tb/index.html> under the heading *SHOULD YOUR HEALTHCARE FACILITY BE CONDUCTING SCREENING FOR TB??* Specific links for guidance on the TB Program website include:

- 1) Wyoming Department of Health TB Program, Facility Risk Assessment
- 2) MMWR report entitled "Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Health-Care Settings, 2005"

These documents are intended to guide a facility in performing their own individualized risk assessment; subsequently, facilities will need to update their policies and procedures according to the individualized risk assessment and current CDC guidelines.

The WDH Office of Healthcare Licensing and Surveys supports facilities in updating policies and procedures in accordance with the TB Program recommendations. The Healthcare Licensing and Surveys office is currently updating rules and regulations to reflect support of this transition. OSHA has also published support of these CDC guidelines; that guidance can be found on the OSHA website ([https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27569](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27569)).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this guidance, please contact Samantha Birch at 307-777-6563 or [samantha.birch@wyo.gov](mailto:samantha.birch@wyo.gov).

Sincerely,

Samantha Birch  
Communicable Disease Unit  
Public Health Division

c: Wendy E. Braund, MD, MPH, MEd, FACPM, State Health Officer-Senior Administrator, Public Health Division  
Debi Anderson, Manager, Communicable Disease Unit, Public Health Division  
Tracy Murphy, MD, State Epidemiologist-Chief, Public Health Sciences Section, Public Health Division