

# TUBERCULOSIS: IP&C HIGHLIGHTS

**NOTE: Refer to the WRHA IP&C Manual for the full Tuberculosis Specific Disease Protocol**

TUBERCULOSIS	
<b>Contact Site IP&amp;C</b>	For any patients presenting with TB like symptoms, as well as any suspected or confirmed cases
GENERAL TUBERCULOSIS INFORMATION	
<b>What is Tuberculosis (TB)?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An airborne-spread disease caused by the bacteria, <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> (MTB)</li> <li>Usually affects the lungs, but can also affect other systems or organs including the brain, kidneys, or spine, and most commonly the lymph nodes or genitourinary system</li> <li>Can be a latent <b>TB infection (not infectious)</b> or <b>active TB disease (infectious)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Transmission (Airborne)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carried in airborne particles that settle slowly and may remain suspended in air for hours, particularly in locations without negative pressure ventilation</li> <li>Communicable mainly by aerosol route. Droplet nuclei are created by forceful expiratory efforts, such as coughing, sneezing, singing, playing wind instruments and speaking</li> <li>Certain procedures (e.g., bronchoscopy, sputum induction, specimen processing, autopsy, irrigation or other manipulation of non-respiratory tuberculosis fluids) may produce infectious aerosols</li> <li>People who are AFB smear positive and culture positive for MTB are most infectious; people who are smear negative and culture positive for MTB are also infectious</li> </ul>
<b>Signs &amp; Symptoms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Symptoms depend on where TB bacteria are growing; TB bacteria usually grow in the lungs (respiratory TB)</li> <li>Classic symptoms of respiratory TB include  <b>Cough &gt; 3 weeks    Unexplained weight loss    Night sweats    Hemoptysis    Fever</b>  <b>Chest pain    Hoarseness    Fatigue    Unexplained loss of appetite</b> </li> <li>People with <b>TB infection</b> do not have any symptoms, do not feel sick, and <b>cannot</b> spread TB</li> </ul>
<b>High Risk Groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People living with persons diagnosed with active TB</li> <li>Urban Poor</li> <li>People who previously had active TB</li> <li>Staff &amp; residents of homeless shelters</li> <li>People born in, or previously residing in countries with high TB incidence</li> <li>Staff &amp; inmates of correctional facilities</li> <li>Aboriginal Canadians residing in communities with high TB rates</li> <li>HCWs serving at-risk groups</li> <li>People who use injection drugs or crack cocaine</li> <li>People with: transplantation; silicosis; chronic renal failure; carcinoma; recent TB infection; abnormal chest x-ray</li> <li>Immunocompromised people</li> <li>Previously incarcerated people</li> <li>Infected with/at risk for HIV/AIDS</li> <li>Elderly persons</li> </ul>
INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL MEASURES	
<b>Patients with signs/symptoms of TB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instruct patient to don a procedure or surgical mask until appropriate room placement is established</li> <li>Implement Airborne Precautions immediately</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Precautions &amp; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Airborne Precautions</li> <li>Post sign on room door in visible location</li> <li>Provide PPE as per signage: N95 respirator</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Contact Precautions         </div> <div style="background-color: green; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Droplet Precautions         </div> <div style="background-color: blue; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airborne Precautions for AGMPs until _____ am/pm _____ date         </div> </div>
<b>Patient Accommodation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place patient in an AIIR; <b>notify site ICP/designate</b></li> <li>If an AIIR is unavailable place patient in a single room with dedicated hand hygiene, toilet, and bathing facilities. The door shall remain closed; <b>notify site ICP/designate</b></li> </ul>
<b>Testing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect specimens in a sterile, leak-proof container using Airborne Precautions, regardless of age</li> <li>3 separate specimens must be obtained, regardless of collection method (i.e., spontaneous, induced, bronchoscopy), <b>at least 1 hour apart</b>, with one collected early morning when patient first awakens</li> <li>Presumed cases of non-respiratory TB must also be assessed for respiratory TB</li> </ul>
<b>Transport of Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Tuberculosis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notify Patient Transport Services &amp; the receiving department regarding the need for Airborne Precautions <b>in advance</b> of the transport/procedure</li> <li>Patient performs hand hygiene and dons procedure or surgical mask</li> <li>Staff performs hand hygiene and dons PPE (N95 respirator)</li> <li>Patient should only exit the room for medically essential purposes</li> </ul>
<b>Discontinuation of Airborne Precautions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Consult site ICP/designate</b> prior to discontinuing precautions</li> <li><b>DO NOT</b> discontinue precautions based solely on AFB smear negative specimen results</li> <li>Discontinuation of precautions for both confirmed and suspected cases of TB is based on the clinical judgment of the Attending Physician and/or Infection Prevention and Control when discontinuation criteria is met</li> </ul>
<b>Visitor/Accompanying Individual(AI)/Designated Caregiver(DC) Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate visitors regarding hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and correct use of PPE</li> <li>Visitors/AI/DC perform hand hygiene on entry and exit of patient care areas</li> <li>Visitors/AI/DC don and seal check an N95 respirator prior to entering the patient space</li> <li>Let visitors/AI/DCs know the protection afforded by an N95 respirator is at a reduced level as it has not been FIT tested</li> <li>Advise visitors with symptoms of a respiratory infection to stay home (exceptions may be considered in extenuating circumstances; contact IP&amp;C)</li> <li>Unit staff to screen close visitors of pediatric patients by symptomology for active infectious TB disease; they must wear a procedure or surgical mask while in hospital until infectiousness ruled out</li> </ul>