

## POSITION STATEMENT: Routine Pre-Employment Tuberculosis (TB) Screening

October 5, 2026

### YCDC and CMOH Position

Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC) TB program and the Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) **recommend against routine pre-employment TB screening** for positions that do not involve health-care delivery or work in high-risk congregate living settings where there is a recognized increased risk of TB exposure (e.g., correctional facilities, homeless shelters).

Pre-employment screening is a low yield activity that in many jurisdictions is no longer considered routine.

Employment screening (for TB disease) in asymptomatic individuals has not proven useful as a case finding tool. Based on 10 years of Yukon data, pre-employment TB screening has never identified TB disease in an asymptomatic individual.

Effective TB screening programs concentrate on individuals and populations who are at increased risk of TB exposure, infection, or progression to TB disease. YCDC's TB program recommends TB screening that is risk-based and targeted, not universal.

In the Yukon, TB screening is indicated in the following situations ([Yukon TB Manual - Chapter 6 TB Screening](#)):

- Contacts to infectious TB
- People born outside of Canada referred by IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada)
- People with medical conditions (see Table 1 below) that may increase the risk of progression from TB infection to TB disease.
- Employees in health care professions
- High-Risk Congregate living settings such as corrections or long-term care homes

Individuals with signs or symptoms of active TB disease can be referred to YCDC for assessment and TB specific testing.

Table 1:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Very High Risk</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| People living with HIV infection (PLWH)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| TB contact within the past 2 years, especially if child less than 5 years old or an adolescent                                                                                                                                               |
| Silicosis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>High Risk</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Chronic kidney disease on dialysis or end-stage                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Transplant recipients (solid organ or hematopoietic)                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Some cancers (lung, sarcoma, leukemia, lymphoma or gastrointestinal)                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Abnormal chest x-ray (CXR) - fibronodular disease Receiving immunosuppressing drugs (e.g., Biologics such as tumour necrosis factor alpha inhibitors (TNFi) or steroid treatments equivalent to 15 mg or more per day for 1 month or longer) |
| <b>Moderate Risk</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Diabetes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Heavy alcohol consumption (3 drinks or more/day)                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Heavy tobacco cigarette smoker (at least 1 pack/day)                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Abnormal CXR – granuloma                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Underweight (less than 90% ideal body weight or BMI less than 20)                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Low risk</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| General adult population with no known risk factor                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Person with a positive 2-step TST, no known risk factor                                                                                                                                                                                      |

Source: [BCCDC TB Manual, Section 3, October 2023](#)

## Recommendations:

Outside of health care settings and other identified high-risk congregate living settings, routine or universal **pre-employment TB screening** is not recommended.

Pre-employment **TB screening (risk based:** consisting of symptom check, risk factor assessment and review of TB exposure history) in healthcare settings or the high-risk settings noted above, however, is recommended.

In addition to the application of Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) policies and procedures, staff should be alert to symptoms and have the responsibility to disclose any communicable disease that could impact the health and safety of the patients, clients, residents, co-workers or others in the workplace.

If you need further clarification on routine screening in your specific setting, please connect with us at YCDC TB program, 867-667-8323 or [YCDCTB@yukon.ca](mailto:YCDCTB@yukon.ca)

Please update your relevant documents and policies to reflect that routine pre-employment screening outside of health care settings and identified high-risk congregate living settings is not recommended.