

Dear Civil Surgeons in DMV Area,

We are reaching out to you in a recent effort to increase our surveillance of Tuberculosis (TB) in the community and establish a more meaningful partnership with the Civil Surgeons in the area. Our intention is to have Civil Surgeons communicate TB results in accordance with current Tuberculosis Technical Instructions for Civil Surgeons from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that were established in 2018.

As an overview, the USCIS and CDC currently require that all status-adjusters over the age of two years old that are screened by Civil Surgeons receive an interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) to be screened for TB/LTBI. Furthermore, anyone with a positive IGRA, known HIV infection, or signs/symptoms of TB should have a Chest X-Ray (CXR) performed.

As of 2018, the USCIS/CDC updated technical instructions for Civil Surgeons also require that all applicants with a positive IGRA are reported directly to the local health department by the Civil Surgeon performing these tests. These diagnostic tests, including the IGRA and CXR, should be ordered by the Civil Surgeon treating the applicant and not referred to the DC Department of Health.

For your convenience, we have also included the reporting requirements on the following page, which are directly modified from the 2018 USCIS/CDC [Tuberculosis Technical Instructions for Civil Surgeons](#):

| CLASSIFICATION | DEFINITION | REPORTING REQUIREMENT |
|--|--|---|
| Latent TB Infection (LTBI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive IGRA • CXR not suggestive of TB Disease • No known HIV infection • No signs or symptoms of TB | <p>Must be reported directly to the DC Department of Health using the HAHSTA Case Report Form Using LTBI Reporting Instructions.</p> <p><u>I-693 may be completed at this time.</u></p> |
| Suspicion for Active Disease or Confirmed Disease | <p><u>This definition applies if any of the following are met:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abnormal CXR suggestive of TB • Signs or Symptoms suggestive of TB | <p>Provider should report to the DC Department of Health within 24 hours as Class III (Confirmed TB) or a Class V (Suspected TB). Use HAHSTA Case Report Form.</p> <p><u>The I-693 may not be completed until the applicant completes an evaluation by Department of Health.</u></p> |
| Known HIV Status | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant has a known positive HIV test/diagnosis | <p>Civil Surgeon will still be required to have CXR and IGRA ordered, as well as symptom review.</p> <p>Civil Surgeon is also required to refer patient directly to DC Department of Health for additional evaluation regardless of IGRA/CXR Results.</p> <p><u>The I-693 may not be completed until the applicant completes an evaluation by Department of Health.</u></p> |

***This reporting table is only relevant to patients with DC addresses (For those with other state addresses, please follow that jurisdiction's protocol for LTBI Reporting)**

Reporting Applicants with Latent TB Infection:

As of 2018, CDC has required that Civil Surgeons report LTBI to the local health departments. To increase the surveillance of TB in the community and keep up with current guidelines, we are asking that Civil Surgeons report these results directly to the DC Department of Health through the [HAHSTA Case Report Form](#). The Civil Surgeon may still complete the I-693 as per protocol.

Treatment for LTBI:

The treatment of LTBI is a crucial step in preventing the progression to Active TB, and thus is an important step to prevent the spread of TB in the community.

During applicant visits, Civil Surgeons are highly encouraged to discuss LTBI treatment options and to complete the necessary referrals to another practice, if necessary.

To ensure access to LTBI treatment, Civil Surgeons may:

- 1) Refer the applicant to a primary care provider or another practice that is experienced in providing LTBI treatment within the applicant's community.
- 2) Offer treatment to the applicant at the civil surgeon's office.
- 3) If other options are not available, refer the applicant to the Department of Health for LTBI treatment. To refer applicants to DC Health, be sure to indicate this on the [HAHSTA Case Report Form](#).

For more information regarding LTBI and treatment referral, please see the rest of the tool kit, in which we have included the following:

- Detailed Reporting Instructions
- TB Information for Patients
- LTBI Treatment Guide for Providers

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and we look forward to continuing to foster a strong partnership that will continue to prevent the spread of TB in the District of Columbia.

For further information on TB in DC, please visit [our website](#). For additional information on the Civil Surgeon Technical Instructions for TB, you can find the full instructions through this [link](#) to CDC's technical instruction webpage.

For any questions directly related to these materials, please call 202-770-9983.

Thank You,

Jason Beverley, MS, RN, FNP-BC

STD & TB Control Division Chief

HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, & TB Administration (HAHSTA)

DC Department of Health

Direct: 202-698-4046