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Tuberculosis (TB) Exposure at Homeless Shelters in Manchester

Key Points and Recommendations:

- A person with active tuberculosis (TB) was present in two Manchester, NH homeless shelters while infectious from October 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025 leading to hundreds of potentially exposed persons (see [Background Information](#) for details).
- Providers should review and be familiar with the following guidance from NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) regarding this situation:
 - Evaluate any person informed by Public Health that they have been exposed with an initial history and physical exam to rule out active TB.
 - If the exposed person has symptoms or radiograph consistent with active TB, call NH DPHS immediately at 603-271-4496 to coordinate safe and efficient evaluation.
 - TB exposure evaluation and treatment for immunocompromised persons may be different; please notify NH DPHS of these patients.
 - If initial evaluation does not suggest active TB:
 - Perform an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA, preferred) or a tuberculin skin test (TST).
 - If the IGRA is positive or the TST is positive (≥5mm induration at 48-72 hours), then perform a 2-view chest X-ray (CXR). If CXR is negative [treat for LTBI](#).
 - If the initial IGRA or TST is negative, repeat testing at 8-10 weeks from the person's last exposure. If the second test is:
 - Negative: no treatment is required.
 - Positive: perform a 2-view CXR. If CXR is negative [treat for LTBI](#).
 - If CXR is abnormal or if there is concern for active TB at any point during your evaluation, call NH DPHS at 603-271-4496.
 - Report exposed patients to NH DPHS at 603-271-4496 (after hours call 603-271-5300 and request the Public Health Nurse on-call).

Background Information

A person with active tuberculosis (TB) was present in two homeless shelters in Manchester, NH during their infectious period from October 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025. The person last visited these shelters on January 31, 2025. All residents, staff, and volunteers who were at these locations during this time were potentially exposed to TB. DPHS is notifying persons who were at the facilities during the above timeframes and inviting them to participate in one of several TB exposure testing events hosted by DPHS and the Manchester Health

Department, or to seek care with their primary care provider. Public clinics have already occurred at the 1269 Café in Manchester, NH on March 6th, 7th, 11th, and 12th.

About 600 potentially exposed persons have been identified from these shelters, but the exact number is unknown, and outreach to this population is difficult. To-date, about 19% of exposed persons from these two shelters have been tested for LTBI, and out of those tested, five persons (4%) have been positive for LTBI based on interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) testing. Additional clinics are being planned for the beginning of April and will be announced through a public press release.

- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.).
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov or visit www.nhhan.org.

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From: Benjamin P. Chan, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist
Elizabeth A. Talbot, MD, Deputy State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Attachments: None