



Lexington Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

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Re: Tuberculosis Policy for New Entrees

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The case rate of tuberculosis in Massachusetts has declined by 25% since 1992. Based upon the guidelines established by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the following policy has been approved by the School Committee (7/97) for entering students.

Only students entering from Latin America (which includes all countries and islands south of the United States), Africa, Asia (except Japan), Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and the Middle East are required to submit a baseline intradermal (Mantoux) test prior to entrance into the Lexington Public Schools. If the Mantoux is positive as stated in a physician's letter, then a negative chest X-ray report is required. BCG vaccine cannot be used in place of Mantoux screening because its protection rate is unreliable and TB may occur after vaccination.

All students should have a TB risk assessment by their primary care provider at the time of scheduled physicals and upon entry to school.

It is the responsibility of the primary care provider to evaluate the child to determine the risk of exposure to TB, the necessity for a TB (Mantoux) test, follow-up on positive reactors or children placed on isoniazid (INH) preventive therapy.

Sincerely,

Paul B. Ash, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools