

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
William A. Hinton State Laboratory Institute  
305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR  
JOHN W. POLANOWICZ  
SECRETARY  
CHERYL BARTLETT, RN  
COMMISSIONER

Bureau of Infectious Disease  
Division of Global Populations and Infectious Disease Prevention  
Tel: (617) 983-6970  
Fax: (617) 983-6990  
[www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/tb](http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/tb)  
[www.mass.gov/dph/refugee](http://www.mass.gov/dph/refugee)

**Policy for Distribution of DPH-Purchased PPD  
September 2014**

The Division of Global Populations and Infectious Disease Prevention, Bureau of Infectious Disease has revised its purified protein derivative (PPD) distribution policy after review of access to health care related to health care reform. We strongly encourage third-party billing for TB testing by PPD or interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) in health care settings. Health care providers should directly procure PPD for their insured patients.

Our goal is to align distribution of publicly-purchased PPD with public health priorities; therefore the Division is establishing an ordered set of priorities for who may be TB tested with state-supplied PPD.

**Priorities for DPH-purchased PPD include (in order):**

1. Individuals identified as contacts to a person with infectious TB (contact investigations)
2. Newly arrived individuals with TB-related conditions identified during overseas medical examinations (Class A/B TB)
3. Staff and guests of homeless shelters tested in the context of TB outbreak investigation and control
4. Children with TB risk (as identified through DPH-approved [TB Risk Assessment](#)) for whom delays in primary care access would preclude timely school entry
5. Uninsured individuals at high risk for TB infection and disease

Additional information on priority populations and situations follows.

**Contact investigations:** Contact investigations are conducted under the direction of local health departments and in coordination with DPH Tuberculosis Surveillance Area (TSA) nurses. Contacts may be at high risk for infection and progression to disease.

**Class A/B TB:** Immigrants with TB conditions identified overseas require additional testing and evaluation for TB within 30 days of arrival in Massachusetts. Local public health nurses are the point of contact for TB testing and link new arrivals with TB clinics. The DPH Division of Global Populations and Infectious Disease Prevention tracks testing and evaluation outcomes for these persons.

**Homeless shelters:** Routine testing of shelter guests is recommended only for those shelters that have or have recently had an outbreak situation and those that house persons at high risk for TB. Baseline and annual testing of shelter staff who have direct contact with clients is also recommended in these shelters. DPH will review requests for PPD based on epidemiology and proposed protocol for testing. Baseline and annual testing of volunteers who have direct contact with clients in shelters of concern, as outlined above, is best managed through primary care.

**Children with TB risk needing school-entry testing:** DPH recommends linking children with a primary care provider for the immunizations, TB testing, and physical examination required for school entry and for ongoing care. Some local public health or school nurses have the capacity to vaccinate and administer and read TSTs at the time of school registration. DPH will provide PPD for this purpose only in those cases where a primary care appointment cannot be arranged in a timely manner and delays would preclude school entry. Approval will be based on a review of existing practice and protocol for testing.

**Uninsured individuals at high risk for TB infection and disease:** Community health centers and other primary care providers may identify uninsured patients at high risk for TB infection and for whom an appropriate plan for treatment is established. DPH will provide PPD for testing uninsured high-risk individuals, should product availability be adequate. Approval will be based on a review of epidemiology and protocol for testing and treatment.

Local health departments and other sites that receive PPD from DPH will be required to follow DPH standards and reporting associated with PPD ordering, inventory management, distribution, and usage. Manufacturing or distribution interruptions may further limit distribution of DPH-supplied PPD.

For more information about ordering PPD, contact the  
Division of Global Populations and Infectious Disease Prevention at [ppd.tb@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:ppd.tb@massmail.state.ma.us)

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/id/tb/>

## Related resources and information

**Testing for TB infection** should be based on risk and only [persons with TB risks](#) should be tested (see <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/id/tb/testing-screening/>). Testing with PPD should be performed only by persons who have been trained in administering and interpreting the tuberculin skin test (TST), and do so according to CDC/ATS/IDSA guidelines (see <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/tb/guidelines-igra-tb-skin-test.pdf>).

**Individuals with positive TB test results** should be evaluated for the possibility of active disease. This can be done in a primary care or other clinical setting, or at a Massachusetts TB Clinic. A list of TB clinics can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/tb/regional-clinic-list.pdf>

**Report TB infection**, and suspected or confirmed TB disease, to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/id/isis/case-report-forms.html>

---

Two formulations of PPD are available for skin testing: Tubersol ([Sanofi Pasteur](#)), which is the preferred product used by MDPH, and Aplisol ([JHP Pharmaceuticals](#)). PPD can be ordered through medical suppliers.

Two IGRA tests are FDA-approved for use in the United States: QuantiFERON-TB<sup>®</sup> Gold In-Tube (QFT-G) and T-SPOT.TB<sup>®</sup>.

Billing codes:

- 86580 TB test: PPD
- 86480 IGRA: QFT-G
- 86481 IGRA: T-SPOT.TB