

TREATMENT PROTOCOL

TUBERCULOSIS

1. General Information

A. Definition

A contagious and life threatening infection of the lungs caused by bacterium (tubercle bacillus).

B. Transmission

1. Tuberculosis is spread through the air by tiny airborne droplets which contain TB. This occurs when a person sneezes, coughs, sings or talks. **THE DROPLETS CAN REMAIN SUSPENDED IN THE AIR.**

2. A person who has TB WITHOUT DISEASE:

- a. Cannot spread infection to others
- b. Is not considered a case of TB
- c. Usually has a negative chest x-ray and no symptoms
- d. Has TB bacteria in their body that does have potential of causing disease at any time later in life.

C. Symptoms:

1. Lethargy
2. Weakness
3. Weight loss
4. Fever and/or night sweats
5. Chronic cough
6. Chest pain
7. Coughing up blood

II. History of Tuberculosis

A. States they have had previous, positive PPD and has completed INH therapy with or without recent chest x-ray.

1. Asymptomatic

- a. May be placed in general population.
- b. May work as an inmate worker, following a chest x-ray or review with Medical Director.

B. States they have had previous, positive PPD and has not had INH therapy or recent chest x-ray.

1. Asymptomatic

- a. May be placed in general population.
- b. May work as an inmate worker, following a chest x-ray or review with Medical Director.

2. Symptomatic (especially cough and bloody sputum)

- a. Isolate in Medical Unit or medical segregation (negative air pressure) cell (301, 302, 305, 306, 309) and use Isolation Technique listed in Section III below.

III. Isolation Technique

A. Must wear a protective particulate mask.

B. Place in cell where air circulation is on negative pressure in Medical Unit or Cells 301, 302, 305, 306 or 309.

C. Place plastic garbage sack in cell for disposable items.

D. Masks are indicated:

- 1. For members who come into cell while inmate is in isolation.
- 2. If inmate leaves cell they must wear appropriate mask while in isolation until cleared by medical.

E. Gloves are not required but hands must be washed after contact.

F. Garbage sack will be tied shut and placed in outside garbage collection container.

IV. If inmate is tested at the AJ and responds with a positive PPD but refused chest x-ray or other follow-up care:

A. Asymptomatic

1. May continue housing in general population.
2. May **not** work as an inmate worker.

B. Symptomatic

1. House in Medical Unit or medical segregation cell with ventilation to an outside system.
2. Use Isolation Technique (listed in Section III. above).
3. Continue regular follow-up management with Medical Unit, who will attempt to get sputum cultures for further diagnosis and management.