

AR 5141.26 Tuberculosis Testing

Any student who is reasonably suspected of having active tuberculosis shall be excluded from attendance at a district school until the student provides evidence of a certificate showing that the student is free of communicable tuberculosis. (Health and Safety Code 121485, 121495, 121505)

Students shall be screened or tested for tuberculosis under the following circumstances:

1. When required by the local health department as part of the comprehensive health screening required for school entry, parents/guardians shall, within 90 days after their child's entry into first grade, provide certification evidencing that their child has been screened for risk of tuberculosis within the preceding 18 months. Such certification shall be on a form approved by the California Department of Health Care Services. (Health and Safety Code 124040, 124085, 124105)

In lieu of the certificate, parents/guardians may submit a signed waiver indicating that they do not want or are unable to obtain the health screening and evaluation services for their child and, if applicable, the reasons that they are unable to obtain the services. (Health and Safety Code 124085)

2. Whenever ordered by the local health officer for the preservation and protection of public health, students seeking admission for the first time to a district school at any grade level shall submit to tuberculosis testing. Students who are subject to the health officer's order shall be admitted to school as follows:

- a. The Superintendent or designee shall unconditionally admit any student who, prior to admission, submits a certificate signed by any public or private medical provider indicating that the student has completed an approved tuberculosis examination and is free from active tuberculosis. (Health and Safety Code 121485, 121490, 121500; 22 CCR 41305, 41311, 41313)

The Superintendent or designee shall exempt a student from the requirement to submit a certificate if the student's parent/guardian, or the student if an emancipated minor, provides an affidavit stating that the required examination is contrary to one's personal beliefs. If there is probable cause to believe that such a student has active tuberculosis, the student may be excluded from school until the Superintendent or designee is satisfied that the student is not afflicted. (Health and Safety Code 121505)

- b. A student who has not submitted the certificate or personal beliefs affidavit may be admitted on condition that the student receives an approved tuberculin skin test within 10 school days after admission. A student who has had a positive skin test and has not subsequently obtained a chest x-ray may be admitted on condition that the student receives a chest x-ray within 20 school days after admission. Any student who fails to provide the certificate within those time periods shall be prohibited from further attendance until the certificate is provided. (Health and Safety Code 121495; 22 CCR 41315, 41327)
- c. Whenever the local health officer so orders, a student may be required to complete an additional examination and provide another certificate indicating that the student is free of communicable tuberculosis. (Health and Safety Code 121485)
- d. At the discretion of the local health officer, the district may admit a student without a certificate if the student is undergoing or has already undergone preventive treatment for tuberculosis infection or treatment for tuberculosis disease. (22 CR 41319)

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3. Whenever the Superintendent or designee suspects that a student who has not been examined for tuberculosis either has the disease or has been exposed, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately report by telephone to the local health officer. When required by the local health officer, the district shall exclude the student from school until the student is certified to be free of communicable tuberculosis. (22 CCR 41329)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a record of any student's tuberculosis examination as part of the student's mandatory permanent student record. (22 CCR 41323)

The Superintendent or designee shall annually file a report with the local health department on the results of tuberculosis examinations for all new district students required to complete such examinations in accordance with item #2 above, including, but not necessarily limited to, the number of students unconditionally and conditionally admitted and the number of students exempted on the basis of their personal beliefs. (22 CCR 41325)

All district staff shall receive information on how tuberculosis is spread and how it can be prevented and treated.

Board Approved:

January 23, 2020

August 18, 2011

October 7, 2004

Effective Date: October 7, 2004