



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

June 7, 2018

Dear Colleague,

We need your help with a new step we're taking to try to further reduce active infectious tuberculosis (TB) in Maryland by reporting all latent TB infections (LTBI) to the health department.

It is estimated that approximately 13 million residents of the U.S. are infected with LTBI, including more than 250,000 Maryland residents. These people are not symptomatic and most are not aware they are infected. Of those infected, 5-10% will develop active disease over the course of their lives – which translates to 12,500- 25,000 new TB cases in Maryland – unless they are treated for LTBI. Reporting and monitoring LTBI in Maryland will allow us all to better understand who is – and perhaps more importantly, who is not – being screened for LTBI here, our LTBI treatment practices throughout the state and treatment outcomes in our patients with LTBI.

Consequently, LTBI has been added to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.06.01.03 as a reportable condition in the state. Maryland providers and laboratories should now report LTBI in addition to active TB. This is a crucial step in our state and national goal to eliminate infectious TB.

Who to Screen for TB:

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends screening individuals who were born in or have lived in countries with high TB prevalence, and individuals who reside or have resided in high-risk congregate settings such as correctional facilities (JAMA September 6, 2016). USPSTF recommendations and supporting documentation are available at <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/UpdateSummaryFinal/latent-tuberculosis-infection-screening>.

LTBI Treatment Guidance:

CDC general recommendations for treating LTBI are available at http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/treatment/tbitreatmentoptions_revised.pdf. For additional guidance contact the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Center for TB Control and Prevention at 410-767-6698 or your local health department.

What to Report:

For reporting purposes, LTBI in Maryland is defined as:

- (a) A positive result on an Interferon Gamma Release Assay, or Tuberculin Skin Test, or any other test indicating TB infection, **AND**
- (b) Active or suspected tuberculosis has been ruled out.

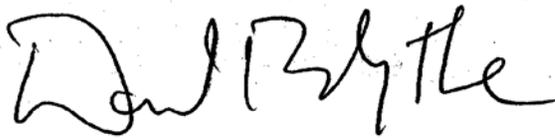
How to Report:

Report all LTBI cases via secured Fax: 410-383-1762. For other reporting options, contact MDH. An LTBI Reporting Form is available on the MDH Center for TB Control and Prevention website:

https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDPCS/CTBCP/CTBCPDocuments/LTBI%20reporting%20form_fillable.pdf

Thank you for your continued support of ongoing efforts to control and prevent TB in Maryland. Please feel free to contact the Center for TB Control and Prevention at 410-767-6698 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Blythe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

David Blythe, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist and Director,
Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau