DEFINITION

To outline the process for investigating and screening exposed contacts (non-HCWs) of infectious tuberculosis patients.

REFERENCES

1. Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) and Epidemiology, Inc. (2009). Chapter 91: Mycobacteria. In APIC Text of infection control and epidemiology (3rd ed.)
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Healthcare Settings MMWR. 2005
4. HICPAC/CDC Guidelines for isolation precautions: preventing transmission of infectious agents in healthcare setting, 2007

COMMENTS

1. All persons who are close contacts of a presumed or confirmed infectious tuberculosis cases will be investigated for possible contraction of the disease.
2. A close contact is defined as one who has been in contact with an infectious TB person for at least 30-40 min without wearing a mask and/ or living in the same household.
3. The Public Health Nurse will refer all other close contacts of an index case to the infectious diseases clinic for evaluation.
4. The Public Health Nurse will provide education regarding the disease and therapy.
5. Healthcare workers whom might be contacts of an infectious TB case will be followed up by the Infection Control staff who will then refer them to the Employee Health Clinic or designated department for evaluation.

PROCEDURE

1. Refer to Flowchart 1–V-05 Contact tracing of TB patients page 112.
2. Refer to ICM–V-02 Contact Tracing, Screening, and Treatment of Tuberculosis in Healthcare Workers.
Contact tracing of persons who have had prolonged exposure to a suspected or confirmed pulmonary TB patient (positive AFB sputum smear)

Family interviewed by Public Health Nurse (PHN)

- **Institutional contacts**
  - PHN will identify contacts to be evaluated
- **Non-institutional contacts**
  - Refer to MOH and Report the Result to Infection Prevention & Control Department

**PPD and CXR**

- **Negative PPD Negative CXR**
  - Repeat PPD in 3-6 month
    - **Negative**
    - **Positive**
      - No further action
      - Refer to ID clinic for assessment

- **Positive PPD Negative CXR**
- **Positive PPD Positive CXR**

**Abbreviations**
- HCW - Healthcare Worker
- ID - Infectious Disease
- MOH - Ministry of Health
- PHN - Public Health Nurse
- PPD - Purified Protein Derivative