

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)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

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

1. 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)

(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)

(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)

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 CCR [41319](#))

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](#))

(cf. [5125](#) - Student Records)

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](#))

~~The following protocol shall be followed for any student who has a positive TB skin test:~~

~~1. The parent/guardian must provide the school with the results of a chest x-ray before the student enters class. If no x-ray has been done, the parent/guardian shall be given a TB follow-up form to take to his/her personal physician or to the county public health office. The student must then obtain a chest x-ray and bring proof that the film was taken for school entry.~~

~~2. If the TB form is not returned with x-ray results within two weeks, the Superintendent or designee shall contact the student and family for information about the x-ray report.~~

~~3. If the student is found to have active infectious tuberculosis on chest x-ray and sputum tests, the student shall not be admitted to school until a physician's note is presented, showing that the student is free of communicable tuberculosis. (Health and Safety Code 3402, 3404)~~

~~4. If the x-ray is negative and the student admitted, the Superintendent or designee may contact the student and family again in four to six weeks to determine that they have followed through with a medical appointment for the INH preventive medication program, if indicated.~~

(cf. [4112.4/4212.4/4312.4](#) - Health Examinations)

(cf. [4119.43/4219.43/4319.43](#) - Universal Precautions)

(cf. [4131](#) - Staff Development)

(cf. [4231](#) - Staff Development)

(cf. [4331](#) - Staff Development)

(cf. [5141.22](#) - Infectious Diseases)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48213 Prior parent notification of exclusion; exemption

49451 Parent's refusal to consent to health examination

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

120230 Exclusion of persons from school when residence is in isolation or quarantine

121365 Duties of local health officer re: tuberculosis control

121475-121520 Tuberculosis tests for students

124025-124110 Child Health and Disability Prevention Program

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

202 Exclusion of students with contagious disease

432 Student records

3030 Eligibility for special education; tuberculosis that adversely affects educational performance

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

41301-41329 Tuberculosis tests for students

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

CHDP School Handbook: School Entry Health Examination Requirements, rev. January 2006

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

California Immunization Handbook: Pre-Kindergarten (Child-Care) and School Immunization Requirements, 10th Edition, July 2019

WEB SITES

American Lung Association: <http://www.lungusa.org>

California Department of Health Care Services: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov>

California Department of Public Health, Tuberculosis Control:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TBCB.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tuberculosis: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb>

Health Officers Association of California: <http://www.calhealthofficers.org>

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