

# Augusta University

## Policy Library

### Annual Tuberculosis Screening

Policy Owner: Dean, Student Life

#### POLICY STATEMENT

Tuberculosis is common with an estimated 13 million infected people in the United States. Universities are at risk of disease transmission because there is a diverse population assembled in close proximity for prolonged periods of time. In cooperation with the American College Health Association guidelines (2014), Augusta University has implemented the following tuberculosis screening and surveillance policy applicable to student enrollment and continuing registration requirements:

- *For New Students* - the TB screening questionnaire must be completed no later than two weeks from the start of a student's first academic term at Augusta University.
- *For Continuing or Returning Students* – the TB screening questionnaire must be submitted prior to registration for the next Fall semester. If for any reason, a student does not attend the Fall semester, they will need to submit the required documentation prior to registration for the Spring or Summer terms. Resubmission will again be required prior for registration for the following Fall term.

Failure to complete the questionnaire and any further required testing applicable to a particular student will result in an "immunization hold" preventing further course registration. The immunization hold will be removed only upon completion of all screening and/or testing requirements. Students will be able to register in Augusta University courses once the hold is removed. After submission of the required materials, please allow **3 business days** for the screening form to be processed and any "immunization holds" to be removed.

#### AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:

- Alumni       Faculty       Graduate Students       Health Professional Students  
 Staff       Undergraduate Students       Vendors/Contractors       Visitors  
 Other:

---

**Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management Use Only**

**Policy No.:** 3801

**Policy Sponsor:** Type the title of the Executive Leader of the department.

**Originally Issued:** Not Set

**Last Revision:** 06/01/2017

**Last Review:** 06/27/2017

## **PROCESS & PROCEDURES**

### **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Student adherence to the annual screening is necessary to complete enrollment and register for courses. Student Health Services will accept information through the completion of the online survey; a scanned copy of the form via email or fax; or submission of the original form either in-person or by mail. The online survey can be accessed at the following web address: <http://www.augusta.edu/shs/documents/tbscreening.pdf>

Any individual whose risk factors change (i.e. spending an extensive period of time in an area of high disease prevalence) is expected to pursue due diligence and present for earlier surveillance. Any individual who believes they have been legitimately exposed to tuberculosis, or they have active symptomatic tuberculosis, must notify Student Health Services immediately of this concern.

### **ADVANCED SCREENING REQUIREMENTS**

Dependent upon the submitted response, additional medical documentation and screening may be required for some students. The immunization hold will not be lifted until all requested documentation and/or treatment is satisfied.

Based on standard epidemiologic criteria, the screening form may indicate whether a student is in need of additional testing. If prompted by the guidance outlined in the form, a tuberculin skin test (TST) will be necessary. Alternatively, an interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) may be submitted. The two IGRA tests results accepted are the QuantiFERON-Gold or T-spot test. Students with a positive TST (where there is 10mm of induration for healthy or 5mm of induration for immuno-compromised students), or an indeterminate TST, MUST proceed to IGRA testing.

An IGRA is required as best practice of TB screening for:

- Any individual with a positive TST;
- Anyone with a past positive TST and no IGRA on record. (TSTs may represent a false positive result; i.e. test positive, but no infection or disease);
- Any individual with an indeterminate or unclear TST result;
- Any individual declaring “false-positive TST” who needs to document TB disease negativity annually.

Any Augusta University student may submit an IGRA for compliance purposes.

## **DISCLOSURE AND TREATMENT REQUIREMENT**

Individuals with positive IGRA tests are presumed infected and must proceed to TB disease surveillance. Individuals with positive IGRA tests who do not show symptoms of being actively sick or infectious are considered as having latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI). Surveillance at this level requires documentation of a chest x-ray showing no active pulmonary tuberculosis and a signed negative symptom testimony from a medical provider.

Any individual with either 1) a positive chest x-ray for active disease, or 2) a positive symptom log, must be evaluated on an individual basis by experienced medical personnel accustomed to working with TB cases.

Tuberculosis, whether active or latent, can be a reportable disease to both federal and state Public Health authorities. Individuals with active TB will not be allowed to participate in class or campus life activities. Actively sick individuals must follow any seclusion requirements made by Public Health Services, and will not be allowed to participate in campus-based activities until the Public Health Department has declared them eligible to do so.

## **FACILITATION**

Student Health Services will actively assist any student who:

- Is uncertain about the policy or how to comply with the requirements;
- Needs assistance with documentation related to this policy;
- Needs additional screening [including TST or IGRA testing] performed;
- Believes they may have active or latent tuberculosis infection.
- Has a positive TST or IGRA, or has reason to believe they fall into a high risk group, e.g. documented exposure to an index case of active TB, or prolonged travel to endemic areas as defined by the Centers for Disease Control, or the World Health Organization.

## **REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Intentionally left blank.

## **RELATED POLICIES**

Immunization Policy Student Medical Records Security and Confidentiality

## **APPROVED BY:**

President, Augusta University and CEO, AU Health System      Date: 06/27/2017