

Freedom from Tubercular (TB) Disease

Groups to be Screened for TB

Mandatory screening

- All international students must be screened for freedom from tubercular disease (TB) when possible within 10 days of arrival on the ISU campus.
- Persons in this group include but are not limited to students with citizenship code 3.

Previously screened students

- International students who have been previously screened at ISU (or other USA schools) with a TST (TB skin test) may discuss compliance with TB requirements by consultation with Student Health Service (SHS) staff.
- Compliance can be assessed for other unique situations (i.e., student has CXR films, or other “pertinent paperwork”) by evaluation/consultation with Student Health Service (SHS) staff on a case-by-case basis.

Recommended screening

- NOTE: International faculty and staff or students, faculty, and staff who are returning from abroad (international study/travel) are encouraged to have TB screening three months after their return. This is primarily for those who have been abroad for six weeks or more. The ISU Student Health Service would be available for consultation regarding concerns about potential exposure to TB.

Screening Tests and Procedures

- All incoming at-risk students should complete a risk assessment questionnaire that will identify those who have been at increased risk for exposure to TB.
- A TB screening blood test that detects interferon gamma release specific to TB antigens will be the default TB screening test (replacing the Mantoux/TB skin test/TST) for these at-risk students. This test type is an Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) and the specific test utilized by the ISU Student Health Service (at this time) is the QuantiFERON –GOLD test (QFT-G).
 - a. This test is to be used to identify persons with infection (Active or Latent TB).
 - b. This test can be effectively utilized **regardless of whether BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) vaccine was received in the past.**
 - c. Students will be scheduled for QFT-G testing at the SHS prior to the start of each semester's first day of classes (or within 10 days of their arrival on campus).
 - d. All high-risk students will be tested
 - i. unless they have certified documentation (*in English*) of a completed TB screening test (QFT-G or Mantoux/STS), that was performed in the United States within the past 12 months of the first day of classes.

Or

- ii. unless they have certified documentation (*in English*) of having completed prophylactic treatment for TB within or outside the United States.

Or

iii. unless manually exempted from this requirement for special circumstances (after evaluation by SHS staff)

- **Interpretation of Results**

- a. **Students with negative QFT-G test results** will be considered not to be infected with TB and cleared regarding TB requirements.
- b. **Students with positive (or “indeterminate”) QFT-G test results** will be required to have further screening, including a chest x-ray and a face-to-face appointment with a SHS physician.

Deadlines and Consequences of Failure to Meet Freedom From Tubercular Disease Requirements

- An appointment at the SHS for immunization review and TB screening, when possible, should be completed within 10 days of arrival on the ISU campus.
- Any student who has not complied with the immunization requirements by the 15th calendar day of his/her entering semester will be charged a non-compliance fee and blocked from registering for subsequent semesters.
- Students who do not meet the TB requirement or subsequent screening measures, (or follow prescribed treatment regimens):
 - may be prohibited from attending classes until such time as determination has been made of no public health risk.
 - and/or; may not be issued their assistantship check until requirements are met.