



Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Recommendations for Long-Term Care Home (LTCH) and Retirement Home (RH) Residents

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Ontario Regulation 246/22 102 (12) of the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* states: “Each resident admitted to the home must be screened for tuberculosis within 14 days of admission unless the resident has already been screened at some time in the 90 days prior to admission and the documented results of this screening are available to the licensee.”

Ontario Regulation 166/11, Section 27 (8 b) of the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010* states: “The licensee of a retirement home shall ensure that each resident is screened for tuberculosis within 14 days of commencing residency in the home, unless the resident has been screened not more than 90 days before commencing residency and the documented results of the screening are available to the licensee.”

“Screening” has not been defined in the Acts.

Based on the Acts and the Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 8th edition (2022), the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU) recommends the following to screen residents for TB sometime in the 90 days prior to admission or within 14 days of admission/commencing residency:

1. An assessment of likelihood of respiratory TB including risk of exposure (e.g., country of origin, contact with a case) and risk of progression to active respiratory TB disease (e.g., underlying medical conditions, immune system function).
2. A symptom screen to rule out active TB, preferably prior to and on admission. If the resident is symptomatic, a chest x-ray (posteroanterior and lateral) should be performed, and the resident should be referred for medical assessment if indicated.

If pulmonary TB is suspected, at least three sputum specimens taken at least one hour apart should be collected and tested with microscopy and culture. Admission/residency should be delayed until pulmonary TB is ruled out.

Tuberculin skin test (TST): Routine TST on (or prior to) admission/residency and periodic TSTs (such as annually) are not recommended for residents.

Transfers: Homes are not required to screen a resident for TB if they transfer or relocate to another long-term care home operated by the same licensee (O.Reg. 246/22, s.102 (13)).

If you have any questions regarding TB screening, please contact the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) Program at 705-474-1400, or toll free at 1-800-563-2808, ext. 5229.

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References

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