

LAMAR UNIVERSITY
MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: Student Affairs
AREA: Student Health

Tuberculosis Screening and Targeted Testing of International Students

I. POLICY

- A. Lamar University requires screening and targeted testing of international students for tuberculosis (TB). Screening and targeted testing is a key strategy for controlling and preventing infection on the campus of Lamar University.
- B. All incoming international students will complete the Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Questionnaire. Students whose questionnaire indicates a risk for latent TB will be required to complete TB testing before attending their second semester at Lamar University. Those students with a positive test will be handled as directed by the health department of the county in which the student resides.

II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- A. This policy follows the guidelines set forth by the American College Health Association (ACHA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- B. This policy applies to all international students attending classes in person on the campus of Lamar University.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Tuberculosis Disease (Active TB).** An infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacteria tuberculosis*. It typically invades the lungs but may also involve the kidneys, bone, brain, and lymph nodes. It occurs when the bacterium in an infected individual becomes active and multiplies. Once the bacteria begin multiplying the person becomes sick, develops symptoms, and potentially spreads the disease to those they spend time with daily.¹
- B. **Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI).** It occurs when *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infects a person whose immune system keeps these bacteria from becoming active and multiplying. Individuals with (LTBI) do not feel sick, have no symptoms, cannot spread the bacteria to others, and will have a positive TB skin or blood test. If the immune system weakens, the bacterium may become active, resulting in active tuberculosis.¹
- C. **Screening.** The process of identifying persons at high risk for TB infection and disease. Screening is conducted through a questionnaire that identifies any risk factors for active TB and latent TB infection.

- D. **Testing.** The testing procedure for diagnosing LTBI, interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA), is performed when indicated by the screening questionnaire. Testing must be performed in the United States.
- E. **International Students.** Students at Lamar University who are attending with an F1 or J1 visa status.

IV. POLICY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Lamar University's Division of Student Affairs oversees and enforces this policy.
 - 1. The Student Health Center
 - Reviews questionnaires.
 - Reviews documentation of testing performed off-campus.
 - Performs required testing - QuantiFERON TB Gold Plus.
 - Notifies the Office of Records of holds needing to be placed and removed.
 - Reports students positive for latent TB to the appropriate health department.
- B. The Office of Records releases and postpones TB holds as directed by the Student Health Center.
- C. The Office of International Education and Services notifies incoming international students of TB policy requirements.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. TB holds will be placed on all incoming students' Banner accounts automatically when they are accepted to Lamar University.
- B. The Office of International Education and Services will notify all incoming international students of the TB policy requirements when they notify the students of all enrollment requirements. The notification will include instructions on accessing the questionnaire in the Student Health Center patient portal.
- C. The Student Health Center will review the questionnaires and notify students if testing is required.
- D. The Student Health Center will notify the Office of Records of how to manage TB holds based on the results of the questionnaire and testing. If testing is not required, the hold will be released. If testing is required, the hold start date will be postponed until the first day of the month in which early registration for the next semester occurs. This will prevent registration until the testing requirements are met. Students requiring further evaluation after testing will be referred to their local TB clinic, and their TB hold will be adjusted to allow additional time for their evaluation to occur.

VI. REFERENCES

¹Centers for Disease Control. (2025, January 17). *About Tuberculosis*. <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/about/index.html>

American College Health Association. (2025, April). *Tuberculosis Risk Assessment and Management*. https://www.acha.org/wp-content/uploads/ACHA_Tuberculosis_Risk_Assessment_and_Management_April_2025.pdf

VII. REVIEW AND RESPONSIBILITY

Review Schedule: Every three years on or before September 1

Responsible Parties: Vice President for Student Affairs
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Vice President for Operations and Chief Financial Officer

VIII. APPROVAL

Dr. Freddie Titus	11/26/2024
Vice President for Student Affairs	Date
Mark Robinson	12/09/2024
Vice President for Operations and Chief Financial Officer	Date
Dr. Jaime R. Taylor	12/10/2024
Lamar University President	Date

POLICY LOG

Version	Date	Description of Changes
1	11/10/2024	Version completed.
	12/10/2024	Version approved by President.
	12/15/2025	At request of Student Health Center administration, updated testing requirements under Section III.D. (remove “Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST)” and add U.S. testing requirement) and Section IV.A.1 (third bullet, remove “tuberculin skin test”). Also updated Section VI (References) to current sources.