



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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Tuberculosis Reporting in Philadelphia November 15, 2022

PDPH has posted the adult Tuberculosis Reporting Form and the Tuberculosis Control Program Consultation Request Form on the Health Information Portal webpage. The forms can be accessed from the "Report a Disease" or "Tuberculosis" tabs on the left side of the Health Information Portal webpage at: <https://hip.phila.gov/xv>

The reporting of Confirmed or Suspected Tuberculosis by laboratories and clinical providers is mandated by both the State of Pennsylvania (35 P.S. § 521.1 et seq., 28 Pa. Code § 27.81 et seq.) and the City of Philadelphia (Philadelphia Health Code § 6-104 et seq) law. Reports must be received at the Health Department within 24 hours of diagnosis, specimen collection or start of anti-TB treatment.

Providers may submit TB reports or request TB consultations by filling out the form and faxing it to 215-685-6477. Please include lab reports, chest radiograph/CT reports, and other supporting medical information.

Patients with suspected or confirmed infectious TB disease should not be released to health-care settings or homes in which the patient can expose others who are at high risk for progressing to TB disease if infected (e.g., persons infected with HIV or infants and children aged <4 years). Coordination with the local TB Control Program is indicated in such circumstances.

Patients who have suspected or confirmed TB disease and who are not on antituberculosis treatment usually should be considered infectious if characteristics include:

- presence of cough;
- cavitation on chest radiograph;
- positive AFB sputum smear result;
- respiratory tract disease with involvement of the lung or airways, including larynx;
- failure to cover the mouth and nose when coughing; and
- undergoing cough-inducing or aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., sputum induction, bronchoscopy, and airway suction).
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If a patient with one or more of these characteristics is on standard multidrug therapy with documented clinical improvement usually in connection with smear conversion over multiple weeks, the risk for infectiousness is reduced.

Please call the Philadelphia TB Control Program to report suspected TB, to request a TB consultation or to coordinate TB follow-up care at 215-685-6873.