



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Thomas Farley, MD, MPH  
Commissioner

July 19, 2012

Celine Gounder, MD, ScM  
Assistant Commissioner  
cgounder@health.nyc.gov

**RE: Test for TB is no longer required for school-aged children**

Bureau of Tuberculosis Control  
42-09 28th Street  
CN72B, WS 21-48  
L.I.C., NY 11101

Dear Principal:

+347-396-7402

Please be advised that effective June 12, 2012, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DoHMH) **no longer requires that new entrants to secondary schools in New York City undergo testing for latent tuberculosis (TB) infection (TST or blood-based test).**

However, according to Article 49 of the New York City Health Code, the DoHMH may require testing for tuberculosis among students or staff in schools when such testing is considered to be necessary by the DoHMH for public health.

If a student does undergo TB testing for any reason and has a positive result, he/she should undergo full evaluation including a chest x-ray as well as any other diagnostic work-up or treatment as clinically indicated. However, he/she should not be excluded from attending school unless the DoHMH expresses specific public health concerns.

In response to the continued decline in the number of TB cases in NYC over the years, TB testing requirements for both students and staff in schools have been eliminated. **Testing for latent TB infection as part of school entry requirements or for employment purposes will no longer be performed at DoHMH Chest Centers.**

You may find more information about this change in the school entry requirements on our website at <http://www.nyc.gov/health/tb>, or you may call 311.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Celine Gounder'.

Celine Gounder, MD, ScM  
Assistant Commissioner / Director  
Bureau of Tuberculosis Control