

Congregate Settings Program:  
IGRA and Targeted Testing

Raiza M. Ruiz, BAAS, CPM  
Congregate Settings Coordinator



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Objectives

- \* Provide an overview of DSHS Congregate Settings Program focusing on IGRA and targeted testing activities and responsibilities
- \* Share resources and contact information with new employees from local health departments and health service regions

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Congregate Settings Program

Congregate Settings Program

- \* Institutional Corrections
- \* Community Corrections (New Program)
- \* **IGRA Testing**
- \* **Target Testing**

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## Congregate Settings Team

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\*Target Testing

**Program email: [CongregateSettings@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:CongregateSettings@dshs.state.tx.us)**

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## Interferon-Gamma Release Assays (IGRAs)

- \* IGRAs are blood tests for TB infection
- \* They do not help to differentiate between TB infection and disease.
- \* There are two IGRAs that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
  - \* QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT);
  - \* T-SPOT® TB test (T-Spot)

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## IGRA Testing in Texas

- \* IGRA testing is now the standard method to screen for TB infection in Texas
- \* TST should still be offered to individuals that refuse IGRA testing and children less than 5 years of age
- \* State funding is currently available for high-risk populations IGRA testing (except in correctional facilities)
- \* TB Programs have the option to do QFT or T-Spot

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## IGRA Testing Updates

- \* The state goal for FY 14-15- 44,000 tests (22 per year)
  - \* Goal was exceeded in 2014 with 24,917 test performed
- \* As of March 2015, 92% of DSHS contracting jurisdictions were using IGRA testing

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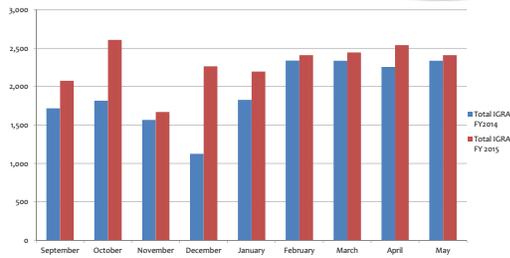
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## IGRA Comparisons per Physical Year



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## IGRA Providers

### QIAGEN (QFT-GIT)

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### Oxford Laboratories (T-Spot)

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Regional Sales Manager  
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## Targeted Testing

Target testing is a key strategy to TB control.

- \* The CDC *Guidelines for Essential Components of a TB Prevention Control Program* list the following priorities:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> priority: identify and treat persons with active TB
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> priority: finding and screening contacts
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> priority: Screening for TB disease and infection in high-risk populations
  - 4<sup>th</sup> priority: identify high risk congregate settings and equip them with infection control equipment and principles.

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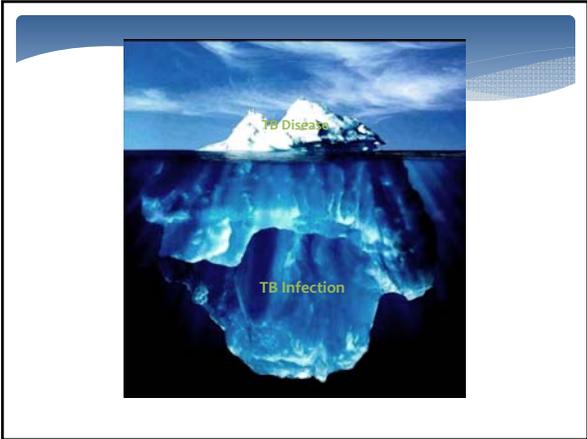
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## DSHS Guidelines: Congregate Settings Target Testing

DSHS supports IGRA testing in congregate settings for at-risk and/or vulnerable group that fall in the following categories:

- \* contacts of someone known or suspected to have active TB
- \* persons with medical risk factors known to increase the risk of disease if infection has occurred
- \* foreign born persons from countries having a high prevalence of TB
- \* persons with history of substance abuse
- \* residents and employees of places where TB is more common health care employees that provide TB services

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## Congregate Settings Program Website and Program Email

- \* Website: [textastb.org](http://textastb.org)
- \* Program email: [CongregateSettings@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:CongregateSettings@dshs.state.tx.us)



Don't email confidential information.  
Please use the PHIN.

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## References

- \* [Updated Guidelines for Using Interferon Gamma Release Assays to Detect Mycobacterium tuberculosis Infection](#)  
MMWT 2010; 59 (RR-05)
- \* [Targeted Tuberculin Testing and Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection](#)  
MMWR 2000; 49 (No. RR-6)
- \* [Screening for Tuberculosis and Tuberculosis Infection in High-Risk Populations \(ACET\)](#)  
MMWR 1995; 44 (No. RR-11)
- \* [Homelessness and TB Toolkit](#), Curry International Tuberculosis Center, 2014

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