

Resources Provided to State-Funded Tuberculosis Programs

Tuberculosis and Hansen's Disease Branch

The mission of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Tuberculosis and Hansen's Disease Branch (TB Branch) is to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) as a public health threat.

To support statewide efforts in fulfilling this mission, the TB Branch provides the following resources at no additional cost to local and regional TB programs:

Accurint

Accurint is a database that allows regional and local health departments to search for and verify information such as addresses and other identifying information of reported patients. Access is limited to two people per jurisdiction.



Interferon Gamma Release Assays (IGRAs)

IGRAs are the preferred screening method to identify TB infection in clients over age two in whom phlebotomy is not contraindicated. The TB Branch offers two available IGRAs on the market: T-SPOT®-TB and QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus for program use.



Cold-box Shipping Through Federal Express (FedEx)

Programs may use the FedEx courier account supplied by the TB Branch to ship Branch-approved specimens to DSHS laboratories in Austin and Harlingen, as well as DSHS-contracted laboratories. Courier packages and supplies are available to programs and can be ordered through DSHS Inventory Tracking Electronic Asset Management System (ITEAMS). See the [Tuberculosis Specimen Shipping Guide](#) for more details.



Laboratory Tests

DSHS laboratories in Austin and Harlingen perform testing for clients undergoing evaluation for TB infection and disease as outlined in the DSHS Standing Delegation Orders (SDOs) for Tuberculosis Services. These tests and supplies include mycobacteriology, hematology, chemistry, and special tests. The list of tests performed at the laboratories can be found on the requisitions listed on the [DSHS Laboratory Services website](#).



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Medications and Supplies for the Treatment of TB

Medications used to treat TB disease and infection, along with select supplies and auxiliary medications to support individual care, are provided to TB programs at no additional cost. The TB formulary is located on Appendix H of the [Texas Tuberculosis Work Plan](#).



Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM)

Programs may use this service for clients with risk factors for poor drug absorption or those who have a slow response to TB therapy. The TB Branch covers the cost of testing for clients in whom TDM is indicated. Note, this service is for the testing only; necessary supplies should be purchased based on local budgets. See [Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Process](#).



Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) and Syringes

Included in the TB formulary are tuberculin skin test (TST) supplies for Chapter 89 correctional facilities and those who do not qualify for IGRAs when TB screening is indicated. The formulary contains Tubersol, a PPD used in performing the skin test, and tuberculin syringes.



TB/HIV/STD Integrated System (THISIS)

THISIS is an electronic disease surveillance system that provides interactive, automated information gathering and decision support processes for the reporting and management of TB, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and all reportable Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD). Public health staff will use THISIS to enter, manage, process, track, and analyze data for disease exposure events, treatment, and follow-up.



Nursing, Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Program Evaluation Support

The TB Branch provides technical assistance for nursing case management, contact investigations, genotyping, false-positive investigations, reporting, surveillance, and program evaluation services. Visit [TexasTB.org](#) for more information.

