

# Congregate Settings Program: IGRA and Target Testing

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Congregate Settings Coordinator



# Objectives

- \* Provide an overview of DSHS Congregate Settings Program focusing on IGRA and target testing activities and responsibilities
- \* Communicate best practices per CDC and DSHS guidelines
- \* Share resources and contact information with new employees from local health departments and health service regions

# Congregate Settings Program

## Congregate Settings Program

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

# Congregate Settings Team

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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)

# TB Screening Using IGRA

## TB Screening

- \* Diagnosis of TB infection and disease should not be based on IGRA testing alone.
- \* Accurate diagnosis should include:
  - \* taking a medical history (risk assessment)
  - \* checking for TB signs and symptoms
  - \* a chest radiograph and/or other diagnostic evaluations when indicated



Tuberculosis Symptoms Screening Form (EF-12-12870)

Texas TB Website: [www.texastb.org](http://www.texastb.org)

# 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

# IGRA Testing Updates

- \* IGRA testing is considered a Tier I Project for DSHS Tuberculosis and Refugee Services Branch
  - \* The Branch submits quarterly reports to the Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services
- \* The state goal for FY 14-15- 44,000 tests (22 per year)
  - \* Goal was exceeded in 2014 with 26,888 test performed
- \* As of August 2014, 92% of DSHS contracting jurisdictions were using IGRA testing

# IGRA Providers

## **QIAGEN (QFT-GIT)**

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Public Health and Corrections  
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## **Oxford Laboratories (T-Spot)**

Candy Meador-Fox  
Regional Sales Manager  
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# Essential Components of a TB Prevention and Control Program

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.

# 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 (e.g., worksites and schools where a TB exposure has occurred)
  - \* persons with medical risk factors known to increase the risk of disease if infection has occurred (e.g., dialysis centers and social service programs for persons with HIV)
  - \* foreign born persons from countries having a high prevalence of TB (e.g., migrant farm worker camps, consulates for high TB-incidence countries and immigration service centers)
  - \* persons with history of substance abuse (e.g., drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers)
  - \* residents and employees of places where TB is more common (e.g., homeless shelters, transitional living centers, or some long-term-care facilities such as nursing homes)
  - \* health care employees that provide TB services (e.g., TB clinics and TCID)



# Target Testing Success Strategies

- \* A decision to test is a decision to treat
- \* TB programs decide the frequency of the target testing
- \* Target testing program should be evaluated periodically for:
  - \* TB infection prevalence rate (reconsider if under 10%)
  - \* Success rate in starting and completing treatment for infected individuals

# Congregate Settings Program Website and Program Email

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



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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)

