

## Tuberculosis (TB) Surveillance Policy

Due to the high prevalence of TB in our region of Thailand, GIS requires TB skin test for all new GIS and ESD students and for all new staff within 6 months of application. The chest x-ray or QFT required for who had history of positive TB skin test reaction. Students and staff are required to complete an annual physical which includes physician assessment for any symptoms of TB. A TB skin test or chest x-ray or QFT are required every 3 years for re-enrollment and all staff.

New applicants who live in areas where there is no availability of reliable TB skin testing will be allowed to take the TB skin test after arrival in Chiangmai, but prior to starting school. Follow up for positive TB skin tests must be done by one of the recommended TB or Chest specialists listed in this policy.

The QuantiFERON TB Gold Test (QFT-G), a TB specific blood test is now approved for those under the age of 17 years old, as well as adults. The QFT-Gold test measures the immune system's reaction to the TB antigen, thus providing a more accurate indicator of TB infection. A prior BCG vaccination will not affect the QFT-Gold test, which can specify between the presence of TB disease infection and TB antibody immunization. The QFT-Gold TB blood test may be done in place of the TB skin test, or as a diagnostic test to verify a POSITIVE skin test. Dr. Peninnah Oberdorfer, at the Ram Hospital Pediatric clinic, or Dr. Kriengsak Wattanasirakul, at his clinic are able to schedule the test and answer questions regarding the QFT-Gold. There is a lab in Chiangmai that is able to do the QFT-Gold blood test. The QFT-Gold blood test is also available in Bangkok hospitals. The total cost can run from 3000--5000bht or more per test.

### Students with a History of Positive TB skin test:

Students who have a documented history of previous positive reaction to TB skin test should not receive a TB skin test thereafter, if they have not completed medication treatment for LTBI. Any treatment for or history of active or latent TB must be reported to the GIS Health office, with verifying medical reports indicating the diagnosis and treatment received.

Required Medical Documents for Positive TB Skin Test: Medical reports required for a positive TB test include the following:

1. TB Test Results Form: must include measurement of induration, at 48 hours and 72 hours; interpretation of result; the diagnosis and treatment.
2. Chest X-ray report with diagnostic analysis
3. Diagnostic report from a Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialist:
  - Dr. Peninnah Oberdorfer MD.,Phd., Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialist at Ram Hospital
  - Dr. Penpak Sornchai, TB Specialist, at Nakorn Ping Hospital or Chiang Mai TB Center

### Protocol for a Positive TB Skin Test

In adherence to the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) and the national Thai TB Specialists and Infectious Disease Authorities, the GIS protocol for a positive TB skin test reaction is as follows:

- 1) Provide information regarding possible TB contact, family history of TB and evidence of clinical symptoms, to be assessed by a doctor or the GIS nurse.
- 2) Submit the TB Test Results Form, completed by the GIS Medical Advisor, the GIS Nurse or by one of the doctors listed below. Results must record a measurement of the amount of induration, for any type

of reaction. Results will be read at 48 hours AND again at 72 hours for a more complete analysis of the TB skin test result.

3) See a TB Infectious Disease Specialist for follow-up testing to identify Latent TB infection (LTBI) and rule out active TB infection. To ensure proper administration of these TB tests, students are required to follow up with a TB Infectious Disease Specialist.

4) Submit Diagnostic evaluation from an infectious disease specialist including one or more of the following:

- a. Chest x-ray
- b. 3 day sputum testing if recommended
- c. QFT-Gold test results
- d. Diagnostic report from Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialists: Dr. Peninnah Oberdorfer MD.,Phd. or Dr. Penpak Sornchai MD

5) Submit a medical report stating that the student is free from active tuberculosis and the recommended follow-up treatment for prevention of active tuberculosis. This is required for students with a positive TB skin test to remain in school.

6) Other family and household members should also receive TB testing.

#### For Latent TB Infection Diagnosis (See also TB Surveillance Policy-LTBI)

Recommended treatment for LTBI is 6-9 months of medication. Documentation from the GIS Medical Advisor or TB Infectious Disease Specialist to follow up medical assessment and compliance to medication prescription is required. A Certificate of Treatment for LTBI signed by the presiding doctor is required when a student completes the recommended medical treatment for Latent TB.

#### For Active TB Infection Diagnosis

For Active TB infections, treatment must be initiated for the student to return to school. The student may return to school and regular activities when effective therapy has been established, as shown by:

- Sputum smears show diminishing numbers of organisms
- Cough and clinical symptoms have diminished significantly
- Adherence to therapy has been documented for at least two weeks

To verify effectiveness of treatment, the doctor's prescribed treatment for two weeks, a Negative sputum AFB test may be required for the student to return to school, depending on the presiding doctor's recommendations.

#### Recommended Hospitals and Doctors for TB Skin Tests/Chest X-ray

Chiangmai Ram Hospital.....contact Dr. Peninnah Oberdorfer:  
8 Boonruengrit Rd. Chiangmai (where Huay Keaw Rd. meets the moat)  
Clinic hours: Sunday & Tuesday 5:00 pm-8:00 pm  
Tel. (053) 224 861

Lanna Hospital.....contact Dr. Jannira  
1 Sukkasem Rd. Chiangmai (on Superhighway between Mae Rim Rd. and Mae Jo Rd.)  
Tel: (053) 999-777  
(recommended Hospitals continued)

Sri Phat Hospital.....contact Dr. Somsak  
Special Medical Service Center, CMU 110/392 Inthawarorot Rd. Sri Phat Bldg. Sripum, (Suthep Rd,  
opposite Suan Dork Gate on the moat) Chiangmai 50200  
Tel: 053-946-900 call Kuhn Siriyupa 053-936-511 for appointments

Nakorn Ping Hospital (NKP hospital).....Dr. Penpak Sornchai  
159 M.4 Chotana (Mae Rim/Samoeng Rd) Chiangmai  
At Infectious Disease Clinic: Wed & Fri 8 :00am – 12 noon Rm #27 Pediatric Clinic  
Tel: 053-890-755  
May also see Suparat Kanjanvanit

Dr. Kriengsak Clinic, Dr. Kriengsak Wattanasirakul  
4 Padat Rd. Chiangmai 50100 (The far end of the Night Bazaar Rd. before the bend along the river,  
diagonal to Ratti Lana Resort Spa)  
Tel: 053-282-970

For Chest X-rays  
Computed Tomography Chiangmai.....contact Dr. Kriengsak Wattanasirakul  
30/31 Superhighway Rd. Tel: 053-282-970  
Baan Suantongsai Villa [On the Ring Rd, just past Tep Panya Hospital (the old Ram 2), before Big C Extra.  
Tel: (053)852- 870-2