

Proposed Health Code Amendment: Enhanced Tuberculosis Reporting for Children Less than Five Years Old

Summary

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (the Department) is requesting that the Board of Health amend §§11.03(a), 11.21, and 13.03(b)(1) of the NYC Health Code to enhance tuberculosis (TB) reporting **for children less than five years of age** to require:

- Providers to submit radiology reports where there is a positive test for TB infection
- Providers to report initiation of treatment for TB infection
- Laboratories to report blood-based tests (e.g., interferon-gamma release assays) or other tests positive for TB infection

The proposed amendments were presented at the September 13, 2016 Board of Health meeting (video available at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/about/hearings-and-notices/public-meetings-archive.page>) and will be considered for adoption at the December 6, 2016 meeting.

Background and Purpose

Children less than five years of age infected with TB are at increased risk for progressing to active disease and developing life-threatening forms of the disease, such as disseminated TB and TB meningitis. For this reason, the Health Code currently requires providers to report a positive reaction to the purified protein derivative Mantoux test or other recognized TB diagnostic test (e.g., interferon-gamma release assays) for this age group.

The proposed amendments will help ensure the Department is made aware of all children less than five years of age with a positive test for TB infection. They will also enable the Department to help ensure that providers have ruled out active TB disease for these patients and that children are started on appropriate treatment.

Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment

The Department will hold a **public hearing** on this and other proposed Health Code amendments from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on October 25, 2016.

The hearing will be at:

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street, 14th Floor,
Room 14-43
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132

Anyone can submit comments on the proposed amendments by:

- **Website.** NYC rules website at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us>
- **Email.** resolutioncomments@health.nyc.gov
- **Mail.** NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street, CN 31
Long Island City, NY 11101-4132
- **Fax.** NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 347-396-6087.

Written comments must be received on or before **5:00 p.m. on October 25, 2016.**

More Information

Full text of the proposed resolution can be found at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us/content/reportable-diseases-conditions-and-laboratories-article-11-and-article-13-new-york-city>. Questions regarding this resolution can be directed to Dr. Douglas Proops (dproops2@health.nyc.gov). Note that comments must be made via the above channels to be part of the official record considered by the Board of Health.