GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TO: Health Care Providers; Schools; Child Development Facilities; Parents; and Guardians

FROM: Department of Health, Office of the State Superintendent of Education and the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

RE: Tuberculosis Exposure Risk Assessment and Testing Requirements for Children Entering Child Development Facilities or Schools

DATE: July 26, 2013

This notice clarifies current District of Columbia requirements regarding tuberculin testing of children attending Child Development Facilities (CDFs) and schools, which follow the current recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics:

CDF: **Prior to admission, and annually thereafter, parents or guardians are required to submit to the CDF a District of Columbia Universal Health Certificate (DC UHC) with documentation of a comprehensive physical examination, inclusive of a tuberculosis exposure risk assessment. Upon recognition of high risk factors, a tuberculin skin test (TST) should be conducted.**

School: **Each student attending Prekindergarten through 12th grade is required to submit annually a DC UHC to the school with documentation of a comprehensive physical examination, inclusive of a tuberculosis exposure risk assessment. Upon recognition of high risk factors, a tuberculin skin test should be conducted.**

Tuberculosis exposure risk assessment consists of administering a series of standard questions assessing a child's risk for Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI). Universal tuberculin skin testing of children entering Children Development Facilities (CDFs) and schools is not recommended or required. Consequently, universal TST requirements included in the "Instructions" accompanying the DC UHC are expressly superseded, and practitioners should refer to the AAP Red Book: 2012 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, 29th Edition, pages 740-742. Children at low risk for LTBI do not require a TST and should not be excluded from school or child care because one is not documented.

Additional information can be found at:

DC Official Code § 38-602. (c) (1) Examination Requirements
http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/dccode/

DCMR 29-325.3 (g). Public Welfare, Child Development Facilities
http://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Gateway/ChapterHome.aspx?ChapterNumber=29-3

American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care
http://brightfutures.aap.org/pdfs/AAP%20Bright%20Futures%20Periodicity%20Sched%20101107.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Latent Tuberculosis Infection--A Guide for Primary Health Care Providers
http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/ltbi/diagnosis.htm

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