

Purpose: To provide guidance to Authorized Providers of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) regarding tuberculosis screening and testing requirements for DDDS eligible service recipients living in a provider-managed residential setting, in accordance with federal and state regulations.

Scope: DDDS Authorized Providers supporting service recipients in the following settings:

- Provider-managed residential settings
 - Neighborhood Group Homes
 - Community Living Arrangements
 - Shared Living Homes

- Support Coordinators and Community Navigators

Guidance:

On June 7, 2022, DDDS received approval from Delaware Division of Health Care Quality to amend the regulations for service recipients moving into a new Residential Habilitation site to waive the two-step tuberculin skin test requirement in lieu of a baseline interferon-gamma release assays or IGRAs marketed as the QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus) and the T-SPOT TB test (T-Spot). Please see Appendix A below.

This Guidance document supersedes and replaces all previous guidance provided by DDDS on this subject.

Neighborhood Group Home and Community Living Arrangement:

Effective February 22, 2023, all DDDS service recipients moving into a new Neighborhood Group Home or Community Living Arrangement under DDDS oversight must be screened for tuberculosis within 30 days of placement (prior or post) and have documentation of the screening in their Immunization Record file in the electronic case record¹.

The provider shall comply with the following tuberculosis screening requirements:

1. All providers shall have on file the results of a two-step tuberculin test/IGRA blood test performed on all new residential service recipients and following the discovery of a new case;
2. The provider must ensure that all service recipients have the results from a baseline two-step tuberculin skin test (TST) or single Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) or TB blood test such as QuantiFERON within 30 days of their move into a new provider-managed Neighborhood Group Home or Community Living Arrangement setting. The Consultative Nurse or Residential Provider shall ensure that documentation of their baseline test results is saved in the service recipient's Immunization Record file in the electronic case record;
3. For service recipients with negative TST or IGRA, no annual evaluation is required unless the category or risk changes as determined by the Division of Public Health. Any required subsequent testing according to risk category shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#);

4. If any of the baseline test results listed above are positive, the service recipient shall receive one chest x-ray to rule out active disease, be offered treatment for latent TB (LTBI) infection and shall be evaluated annually for signs and symptoms of active TB if they cannot provide documentation of completion of treatment for LTBI;
5. Providers shall establish policies for TB risk assessment for any service recipient having a positive skin test/IGRA but negative x-ray. The provider must have an annual statement from a licensed health care professional that indicates the service recipient has exhibited no signs or symptoms of active TB.

Shared Living:

Effective February 22, 2023, all DDDS service recipients moving into a new Shared Living setting under DDDS oversight must be screened for tuberculosis within 6 months prior to placement and have documentation of the screening in their Immunization Record file in the electronic case recordⁱⁱ.

The provider shall comply with the following tuberculosis screening requirements:

1. All providers shall have on file the results of a two-step tuberculin test/IGRA blood test performed on all new residential service recipients and following the discovery of a new case;
2. The provider must ensure that all service recipients have the results from a baseline two-step tuberculin skin test (TST) or single Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) or TB blood test such as QuantiFERON within 6 months prior to their move into a new Shared Living setting. The Consultative Nurse or Support Coordinator shall ensure that documentation of their baseline test results is saved in the service recipient's Immunization Record file in the electronic case record;
3. For service recipients with negative TST or IGRA, no annual evaluation is required unless the category or risk changes as determined by the Division of Public Health. Any required subsequent testing according to risk category shall be in accordance with the recommendations of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#);
4. If any of the baseline test results listed above are positive, the service recipient shall receive one chest x-ray to rule out active disease, be offered treatment for latent TB (LTBI) infection and shall be evaluated annually for signs and symptoms of active TB if they cannot provide documentation of completion of treatment for LTBI;
5. Providers shall establish policies for TB risk assessment for any service recipient having a positive skin test/IGRA but negative x-ray. The provider must have an annual statement from a licensed health care professional that indicates the service recipient has exhibited no signs or symptoms of active TB.



**DELAWARE HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**
Division of Health Care Quality

June 7, 2022

Cory Ellen Nourie, MSS, MLSP, Director of Community Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities Services
Woodbrook Professional Center
1056 South Governor's Avenue Suite 101
Dover, Delaware 19904

**Re: Delaware Neighborhood Home Regulations -Waiver request of Section 3310 9.1.6.3
Delaware Family Care Home Regulations - Waiver request of Section 3315 7.1.5.4**

Dear Ms. Nourie:

This is in reference to your recent request for the waiver of sections 3310 9.1.6.3 of the Delaware Neighborhood Homes for Persons with Developmental Disabilities regulations and 3315 7.1.5.4 of the Delaware Family Care Home Regulations.

These regulations require;

3310: 9.1.6.3 Minimum requirements for tuberculosis (TB) testing require all occupants to have a base line two step tuberculin skin test.

3315: 7.1.5.4 Minimum requirements for tuberculosis (TB) testing require all occupants to have a base line two step tuberculin skin test.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) is requesting to waive the two step tuberculin skin test requirement in lieu of a baseline interferon-gamma release assays or IGRAs marketed as the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus) and the T-SPOT®.TB test (T-Spot).

After review of the correspondence received on June 3, 2022 and review of the information submitted, the Delaware Division of Health Care Quality has approved your waiver request. This waiver approval will permit DDDS to accept either a baseline two step tuberculin skin test or an IGRA blood test to meet the requirements of DHCQ Regulations 3310 9.1.6.3 and 3315 7.1.5.4 for any and all new admissions to Neighborhood and Family Care Homes.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (302) 421-7448.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert H. Smith".

Robert H. Smith
Licensing and Certification Administrator

ⁱ [3310 Neighborhood Homes for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities \(delaware.gov\)](#)

ⁱⁱ [3315 Family Care Homes \(delaware.gov\)](#)