

## Tuberculosis Disease Risk Assessment for Trumbull County

<b>Trumbull County Combined Health District (TCCHD)</b>	<b>Department:</b> Nursing Division
<b>Effective Date:</b> January 2025	<b>Description:</b> Annual Report
<b>Next Review Date:</b> January 2026	<b>Completed By:</b> Erin Heckman, RN Director of Nursing

### I. INCIDENCE OF TB DISEASE

The following is the incidence of TB Disease in Trumbull County for the year 2024:

- There were no cases of active TB Disease in Trumbull County
- There have been no multi-drug resistant TB Disease cases locally since 1998
- No clusters of persons in Trumbull County with confirmed TB Disease have been identified
- No person in Trumbull County has converted from Latent TB to TB Disease
- The impact of an outbreak of TB Disease or even an exposure of TB Disease to untested people is low based on Trumbull County's 2024 risk of TB

### II. RISK CLASSIFICATION FOR TB DISEASE

Trumbull County Combined Health District is a local public health department. Based on CDC guidelines of number of patients encountered with TB Disease, Trumbull County, Ohio is considered "low risk" for the year 2024.

### III. SCREENING OF TCCHD'S TB CLINIC STAFF FOR TB DISEASE

- Initial baseline skin testing for TB Clinic Staff is performed with two-step TST
- Known positive reactors are required to complete and return a symptoms questionnaire indicating whether or not they have experienced TB symptoms in the last year
- All screening records are confidentially maintained
- Annual TST will continue to be required for TCCHD clinic employees
- Annual TST for TCCHD TB clinic staff was last completed between 01/06/25 and 01/07/25 for all current TB clinic staff

### IV. TB DISEASE INFECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

The Trumbull County Combined Health District TB Control RN and Epidemiologist are responsible for the TB Infection Control Plan and Respiratory Control Plan for Trumbull County Combined Health District. The plan is reviewed and updated annually. Trumbull County Combined Health District is the Trumbull County Tuberculosis Clinic and is the lead agency and member of the Trumbull County Local Emergency Preparedness Coalition. The Trumbull County Combined Health District TB Control RN and Epidemiologist maintain regular communication with the Director of Nursing for Warren City Health District and the Infectious Prevention Nurses from Mercy St. Joseph, Insight (Trumbull Memorial) Hospital and Insight (Hillside) Hospital. The Trumbull County Combined Health District TB Control RN and the Epidemiologist participate in the Quarterly TB Touch Base meeting with the Ohio Department of Health. In addition to this quarterly meeting, the Ohio Department of Health provides support through their TB Program.

### V. IMPLEMENTATION OF TB DISEASE INFECTION CONTROL PLAN

The TCCHD's Medical Director and Assistant Medical Director are responsible for reviewing, approving and signing the TB policies, procedures and plans. The policies, procedures and plans for the TB clinic are maintained in the TCCHD Nursing Division and are reviewed and updated annually. Lapses in infection control are usually brought to the TB Public Health Nurse (PHN) and/or the Director of Nursing (DON) by employee reported observations. Quick resource response corrects these lapses. On-going training and education regarding TB infection-control practices is provided to all TCCHD PHN and TB clinic staff upon hire and annually or as needed thereafter.

## **VI. CLIENT TREATMENT AND REFERRAL**

There were 28 total clients seen at the TCCHD TB Clinic for the year 2024:

- 20 were successfully treated for latent TB
- 0 relocated from the area of Trumbull County
- 8 elected not to receive treatment or were deemed not medically appropriate to receive treatment
- Average of 6-10 referrals per month

As of January 2025, there are 10 total clients on the census at the TCCHD TB Clinic:

- 7 actively being treated for latent TB
- 3 new clients to be seen in the month of February 2025

There were no positive TB Disease clients seen at the TCCHD TB clinic for the year 2024. Based on this information, the average number of days for the following is shown:

- Presentation of patient until collection of specimens: **N/A**
- Specimen collection until receipt by laboratory: **N/A**
- Receipt of specimen by laboratory until smear results are provided to health-care provider: **N/A**
- Diagnosis until initiation of standard anti-tuberculosis treatment: **N/A**
- Receipt of specimen by laboratory until culture results are provided to health-care provider: **N/A**
- Receipt of specimen by laboratory until drug-susceptibility results are provided to health-care provider: **N/A**
- Receipt of drug-susceptibility results until adjustment of anti-tuberculosis treatment, if indicated **N/A**
- Admission of patient to hospital until placement in airborne infection isolation (AII): **N/A**

## **VII. STAFF TIME**

In 2024, staff time dedicated to the operations of the TCCHD TB Clinic was a total of 558 hours:

- Education/Teaching
- Office Consultation/Paperwork/Chart Reviews
- Mantoux Testing
- Medical Clinics
- Conference Calls
- Education Seminars/Meetings for Staff

## **VIII. LABORATORY PROCESSING OF TB RELATED SPECIMENS, TESTS, AND RESULTS BASED ON LABORATORY REVIEW**

All tests for TB related specimens collected at the TCCHD are sent to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratories. The usual transport time for specimens to reach the lab is 24 hours. AFB smear results are reported to TCCHD within 24 hours of receipt of specimen.

## **IX. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS FOR TB DISEASE**

There is one negative pressure exam room at TCCHD for client assessment and treatment. The negative air room is monitored and negative pressure readings obtained quarterly by Thompson Mechanical of Warren, Ohio. Thompson Mechanical checks the air differential readings. The results are recorded in the TB program plan records. If the TB exam room pressure is not negative, the contracted provider will make the necessary repairs. Readings were conducted on 3/13/24, 06/19/24, 09/23/24, and 12/17/24.

- Negative pressure room installation was performed by Thompson Mechanical on 11/15/23 for the building located at 194 W. Main St. Cortland, OH 44410. The actual air changes (ACH) per hour are 12 ACH. The room measures 14'x 10'x 8'= 1120 cubic feet. 12 ACH will require an air volume of 13,440 cubic feet per hour (1120 x 12); and the fan needs to deliver a minimum of 192 cubic feet per minute (cfm) to exhaust 13,440 cubic feet per hour (192 x 60 minutes per hour = 13,440 cubic feet per hour).

## **X. RESPIRATORY PROTECTIONS PROGRAM FOR TB DISEASE**

The TCCHD policies and procedure for respiratory protection follow the CDC guidelines for respiratory protection. Respiratory protection education is provided for the TB Staff involved in the program. TCCHD TB clinic staff includes any staff that might have direct contact with suspect TB clients. N-95 masks are intended for use when working with suspected TB Disease clients at TCCHD. Initial fit testing and respiratory protection education is provided for newly hired TB clinic staff. Respiratory fit testing is provided to all other staff if there is a notable change in the staff's facial structure, e.g. facial hair, weight loss or gain, etc.

## **XI. REASSESSMENT OF TB DISEASE RISK FOR TRUMBULL COUNTY**

The next scheduled TB Disease Assessment for Trumbull County will be in January 2026. There are no actions needed for this assessment at this time.