

What Your Shelter Can Do to Prevent TB

- ❑ Observe guests for signs of TB and facilitate a medical evaluation for individuals who are coughing for more than three weeks or who have other signs of TB
- ❑ Encourage guests who are being evaluated or treated for LTBI or TB to follow through with treatment. Reassure them that this treatment is free and that TB can be cured
- ❑ Move guests who are coughing to a separate sleeping area if possible
- ❑ Maintain as much space as possible between beds and position beds “head to toe” rather than “head to head”
- ❑ Maintain logs or “bed lists” and keep them for one year
- ❑ Think about ventilation: open doors and windows to promote air exchange, especially in areas where guests congregate to eat, sleep or watch TV. If your shelter has a mechanical ventilation system, be sure that it is functioning properly.
- ❑ Use ultra violet lights if they are available. UV lighting kills bacteria in the air
- ❑ Provide education about TB for staff, guests and volunteers
- ❑ Post signs to promote “cough etiquette”
- ❑ Provide tissues and paper masks and use them for both staff and guests when they are coughing
- ❑ If your shelter serves “high risk” guests (See “*Tool Kit*” to determine risk), screen staff and guests for TB infection (tuberculin skin testing / “PPD”). Skin test screening needs to be provided by a health care worker who has had special training in administering and reading skin tests.
- ❑ Be aware that individuals who have HIV infection or other chronic diseases are more vulnerable to TB infection
- ❑ Develop a TB policy and keep it in a place where staff may refer to it when questions arise.

*Call your local TB Control or Public Health Department for guidance if you suspect TB