

EMPLOYEE TUBERCULOSIS TRAINING

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Florida Department of Corrections (DC) recognizes that the correctional environment can facilitate the spread of tuberculosis (TB) and other airborne disease from infected individuals to uninfected staff, inmates and the general public.
2. The Department of Corrections, in accordance with OSHA guidelines, seeks to prevent occupational TB exposures through integrated exposure control procedures, engineering controls, worker education, training and respiratory protection for at-risk workers, and orientation and respiratory protection for visitors permitted access to inmates under AFB (acid-fast bacilli) isolation precautions.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of employee training is as follows:

1. To provide information to institutional staff for the prevention of occupational exposure to TB.
2. To provide an integrated worker protection plan that minimizes exposures of employees, inmates and the general public to communicable TB.
3. To provide medical qualification for health care staff, correctional staff and inmate workers (at-risk workers) to wear approved respirators for TB exposure.
4. To provide annual education in elemental TB epidemiology, medical surveillance, infection control methods and engineering controls for new at-risk workers and current at-risk workers.
5. To provide annual training in the capabilities and limitations of respirators approved for TB exposure, respirator fit checking, and fit testing with HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) respirators (as available) or type N95 respirators for new at-risk workers and current at-risk workers.
6. To provide HEPA respirators (as available) or type N95 respirators as mandatory personal protective equipment for at-risk workers exposed to TB.
7. To provide respiratory protection for qualified correctional staff assigned to medical transport and community hospital security duty for inmates under AFB isolation precautions.

C. TB TRAINING

1. Objectives: The student will:
 - a. Describe the difference between TB infection and TB disease
 - b. List the symptoms of TB
 - c. Describe how the disease is spread
 - d. Describe the principles of surveillance
 - e. Describe the screening process
 - f. Explain the use of HEPA filters
 - g. Discuss the concerns related to TB within the correctional system
2. Outline
 - a. What is TB infection
 - b. What is TB disease
 - c. How is TB spread
 - d. TB and HIV
 - e. TB control
 - f. Surveillance measures
 - g. TB screening
 - h. TB in correctional facilities
 1. HEPA filter masks

New employees will be provided with handouts with the above information and will review department procedures and instructions related to the identification and treatment of TB within the inmate population.