

FM BUMED WASHINGTON DC/M3/  
TO NAVMED WEST SAN DIEGO CA//JJJ//  
NAVMED EAST PORTSMOUTH VA  
NAVMED NCA BETHESDA MD  
NAVMEDSUPPCOM JACKSONVILLE FL  
NAVENVIRHLTHCEN PORTSMOUTH VA  
CNO WASHINGTON DC//N093//  
CNI WASHINGTON DC  
CMC WASHINGTON DC//HC//  
INFO BUMED WASHINGTON DC//M3/M1/M09B//  
UNCLAS/N00000//  
MSGID/GENADMIN/BUMED WASHINGTON DC/M3/3NOV06//  
SUBJ/TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM - CLARIFICATION//  
REF/A/DOC/BUMEDINST 6224.8/YMD:19930208//  
REF/B/DOC/CDC/YMD:20000609//  
NARR/REF A IS CURRENT BUMED INSTRUCTION ON TUBERCULOSIS  
CONTROL PROGRAM, UNDER REVISION. REF B IS CENTERS FOR  
DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS  
NO. 6, TARGETED TUBERCULIN TESTING AND TREATMENT OF LATENT  
TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION.//  
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RMKS/1. THIS MESSAGE CLARIFIES POLICY FOR TWO-STEP  
TUBERCULIN SKIN TESTING (TST) OF CIVILIAN NAVY DEPARTMENT  
EMPLOYEES IN POSITIONS AT HIGH RISK FOR EXPOSURE TO  
INFECTIOUS TUBERCULOSIS (HEALTH CARE WORKERS, CHILD DAY-  
CARE WORKERS, ETC.) WHO WILL BE RETESTED PERIODICALLY.  
2. THE PURPOSE OF TWO-STEP TUBERCULIN SKIN TESTING IS TO  
REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT A BOOSTED REACTION WILL BE  
MISINTERPRETED AS A RECENT INFECTION. IN PERSONS WHO  
RECEIVED THE BCG VACCINE AS A CHILD OR WHO DEVELOPED A  
LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION MANY YEARS BEFORE, THEIR  
SENSITIVITY TO A TST MAY SHOW LITTLE OR NO REACTION AND BE  
INTERPRETED AS NEGATIVE. GIVING A TST MAY "BOOST" SUCH A  
PERSON'S IMMUNE RESPONSE, AND SUBSEQUENT TSTS MAY CAUSE A  
REACTION AND BE INTERPRETED AS "POSITIVE" WHEN TUBERCULIN  
SKIN TESTING OF ADULTS IS REPEATED.  
3. POLICY: ALL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WHO WORK IN A JOB  
SERIES REQUIRING PERIODIC TB TESTING, E.G., HEALTH CARE  
WORKERS, MUST HAVE BASELINE TB SCREENING PERFORMED AT THE  
TIME OF EMPLOYMENT OR NEW DUTY ASSIGNMENT. DUE TO THE  
POSSIBILITY OF A BOOSTED RESPONSE, BASELINE TWO-STEP TST  
TESTING IS REQUIRED. A DOCUMENTED NEGATIVE TST RESULT IN  
THE PRECEDING 12 MONTHS WILL SUFFICE AS THE FIRST TST.

3.A. IF THE EMPLOYMENT TST IS NEGATIVE AND THE PERSON HAS A DOCUMENTED NEGATIVE TST RESULT IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, NO FURTHER TESTING IS NECESSARY. THE PERSON SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS UNINFECTED. IN THESE PERSONS, A POSITIVE REACTION TO ANY SUBSEQUENT TEST IS LIKELY TO REPRESENT NEW INFECTION WITH M. TUBERCULOSIS (SKIN TEST CONVERSION).

3.B. IF THE EMPLOYMENT TST IS NEGATIVE AND THE PERSON DOES NOT HAVE A DOCUMENTED NEGATIVE TST TEST RESULT IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, A SECOND TST MUST BE APPLIED NO SOONER THAN ONE WEEK AND NO LATER THAN THREE WEEKS AFTER THE FIRST TEST. A POSITIVE REACTION TO THE SECOND TEST MOST LIKELY REPRESENTS A BOOSTED REACTION (PAST INFECTION OR PRIOR BCG VACCINATION). ON THE BASIS OF THE SECOND TEST RESULT, THE PERSON SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS A REACTOR AND BE EVALUATED AND TREATED AS APPROPRIATE.

3.C. EMPLOYEES MAY BEGIN WORK BEFORE THE SECOND TEST HAS BEEN INITIATED. AN EMPLOYEE WHO HAS A POSITIVE SECOND TST SHOULD BE MEDICALLY CLEARED PRIOR TO RETURNING TO WORK.

4. RELEASED BY RDML D. J. SMITH, MC, USN.