

# Tuberculosis (TB) Screening and Clearance for Homeless Shelter Entry

## Health Fact Sheet



### 1. What are the symptoms of TB disease?

- Coughing for 3 weeks or longer
- Pain in chest
- Fever
- Chills
- Night sweats
- Coughing up blood and/or mucus
- Weight loss
- No appetite
- Shortness of breath

### 2. What is a TB test like?

- A medical provider will ask you a few questions to learn if you have any TB symptoms, or if you were around anyone with TB. The medical provider will give you a TB test. It may be a skin test, blood test, or a chest x-ray. A negative result means you likely do not have TB infection or TB disease. A positive test result means you have TB germs in your body.

### 3. How often should I be tested for TB?

- Once before you enter the shelter
- Once a year, or per the rules of a shelter
- If you think that you've been in contact with someone with TB disease

### 4. How do I get TB clearance for shelter entry?

- You'll need to get clearance paperwork from a medical provider showing that you had a TB test, and that there is no TB disease in your lung.

### 5. What if I don't have a TB clearance at the time of shelter entry?

- Clients needing TB clearance will be referred for a TB screening either onsite or offsite. They must bring back the TB clearance paperwork within 7 days of shelter entry.

## For More Information

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Program  
(213) 745-0800 or visit [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/tb](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/tb)