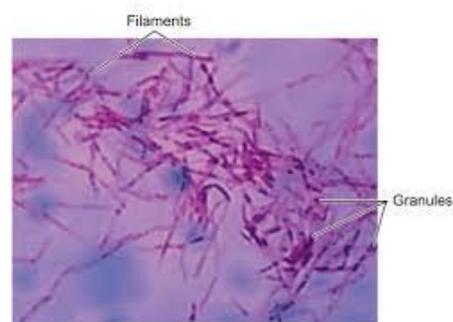


# Tuberculosis Highlights

## Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB)

The diagnosis and treatment of TB is not easily translated into algorithms or outlines because the context of what and how to proceed requires clinical judgement and varies on a case by case basis. We have some information that hope will prove helpful in the approach to TB infection, here, in Ventura County.



- TB is regularly diagnosed in Ventura County.
- TB must be considered in the differential diagnosis of anyone with an infiltrate on chest xray and constitutional/respiratory symptoms.
- The Tuberculin Skin Test (PPD) and the QuantiFERON Gold TB blood test **are equally effective** screening tests for TB.
- Regarding the TB tests:
  - QuantiFERON Gold TB blood test should be used in all individuals previously treated with BCG because PPD can be falsely positive in this setting.
  - QuantiFERON Gold TB blood test is preferred in a person who has a low chance of returning for the skin test interpretation visit.
  - QuantiFERON Gold TB blood test samples must be processed in 8-30 hours after collection while white blood cells are still viable. Errors in collecting or transporting blood specimens can lead to indeterminate tests. **If QuantiFERON Gold TB blood test is indeterminate, please repeat the test.**
  - **QuantiFERON Gold TB Test and PPD negativity do not necessarily rule out active pulmonary TB.**
- **A positive PPD or QuantiFERON Gold Test always requires additional work-up** including a CXR and symptom review for constitutional/respiratory symptoms.
- An individual with a **positive PPD or positive QuantiFERON Gold TB Test and a negative CXR** and no constitutional/respiratory symptoms is considered to have **latent TB or dormant/inactive TB**. They have been exposed to *M. tuberculosis* but do not have active TB disease.

- Persons with latent TB infection cannot spread infection to others.
- Treatment of latent TB is recommended for all if it is not contraindicated because **5-10% of people with latent TB are at risk of developing active disease.**
- Any individual with a **positive PPD or positive QuantiFERON Gold TB Test with ANY pulmonary infiltrate (including those who are asymptomatic)** are considered to have active TB until proven otherwise.
- These individuals should be managed as follows:
  - Place a surgical mask on the patient immediately and place in airborne room if available. Use properly fitted N95 mask to evaluate the patient.
  - Call Public Health 805-385-9451 during weekdays; after hours call 805-214-7057
  - Complete and fax CMR form to Public Health.
  - TB controller will initiate treatment and manage patients with Active TB.
  - Notify Infection Preventionist at 805-652-3383.
  - These patients cannot be cleared or approved for a group setting without public health clearance.
- Treatment of Latent TB Infection is not complex and primary care providers can treat patients in the primary care setting.
  - Resources to use include CDC website and Johns Hopkins Antibiotic application.
  - Providers should review these options carefully as settings, such as, pregnancy, other medications, patient age, presence of HIV infection or immunocompromised may influence the determination of the proper therapeutic intervention.
  - **If other complicated factors, please send your patient to TB clinic for treatment.**

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