

Incident risk assessment

Assessment of risk of exposure to TB in a congregate setting to decide on the need for and extent of contact investigation. The risk assessment would take into consideration factors such as infectiousness of the index case, vulnerability of contacts to TB infection, length of contact with or exposure to an infectious case and the built environment (for example, size of the rooms, ventilation and overcrowding).

Index case

The initial person found to have TB, whose contacts are screened. The source of their infection may be found to be 1 of the contacts, but the person who presents first is regarded as the index case.

Induration

The firm skin reaction occurring after a tuberculin skin test to diagnose latent TB infection. It is measured, and the result used to determine whether the test result is classified as positive or negative. This guideline recommends a threshold of 5 mm for tuberculin skin test positivity.

Infectious TB

Active smear-positive pulmonary TB, that is with acid fast bacilli visible on microscopy. Active TB affecting other parts of the respiratory tract or oral cavity, though rare, is also considered infectious.

Isolation

An infection control measure in which people with infectious TB are kept away from others who may be at risk of infection. This guideline deals with 3 levels of isolation for infection control in hospital settings:

- negative pressure rooms, which have air pressure continuously or automatically measured, as defined by NHS Property Services
- single rooms that are not negative pressure but are vented to the outside of the building