**Additional Guidelines for
Tuberculosis (TB) Risk Assessments, Form TB-4**

Since 2007, Local Health Departments (LHDs) have had more activity for “**Targeted Tuberculin Testing and Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection**,” <http://www.cdc.gov/MMWR/preview/MMWRhtml/rr4906a1.htm>. The TB Risk Assessment Form, TB-4, was developed to aid Local Health Departments in conducting TB risk assessments with targeted testing for those Kentuckians with increased risk for latent TB infection (LTBI).

As noted in the CDC guideline, “Targeted tuberculin testing for LTBI is a strategic component of tuberculosis (TB) control that identifies persons at high risk for developing TB who would benefit by treatment of LTBI, if detected. Persons with increased risk for developing TB include those who have had recent infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and those who have clinical conditions that are associated with an increased risk for progression of LTBI to active TB. Following that principle, targeted tuberculin testing programs should be conducted only among groups at high risk and discouraged in those at low risk. Infected persons who are considered to be at high risk for developing active TB should be offered treatment of LTBI irrespective of age.”

The overall goal of these TB risk assessments at LHDs is to increase the percentage of tuberculin skin tests (TSTs) or blood assays for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (BAMTs) that are administered to individuals at increased risk for LTBI and to decrease the percentage of TSTs or BAMTs that are administered to individuals who have no risk factors for LTBI.

LHDs should use the TB risk assessment for all patients presenting for TB screenings, including those individuals identified in contact investigations. The TB Risk assessment form is an ideal tool for educating patients about the signs and symptoms of active TB, the risk factors for developing LTBI, and the risk factors for rapid progression of LTBI to active TB.

The TB risk assessment process also more easily enables LHD staff to determine the cut-off values for reading a TST when a TST is used for screening. A “Report of Tuberculosis Screening,” Form TB-3, can be completed for those patients who need documentation of the results of TB screening for their employers or other groups.

\*The Kentucky TB Program recognizes that the LHD may choose to collaborate with other organizations for the management and treatment of LTBI or other TB-related occupational health services. In these instances, a written agreement should be initiated between the two agencies to clearly identify the roles of each organization and define a payment schedule for any TB-related services provided by the LHD.