



Region of Waterloo  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

## **TB SCREENING Requirements for Long Term Care/Retirement Home Residents**

The *Long Term Care Homes Act, (2007)* and the *Retirement Home Act (2010)*, requires that all residents admitted to a long term care home or retirement home be screened for active TB. This screening should be completed within 90 days prior to admission, or within 14 days after admission.

The *Canadian Tuberculosis Standards (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)* was released in February 2014, with updated screening recommendations for Long Term Care/Retirement home residents.

Based on these standards, Region of Waterloo Public Health recommends the following:

### **All new RESIDENT admissions to Long Term Care and Retirement Homes:**

- Medical assessment and symptom review to rule out active TB
- Residents over 65 years of age require a baseline chest x-ray (PA and Lateral views)
- Residents 65 years of age and under require a two-step TB skin test (this may be offered by the facility)

### **All new SHORT STAY RESIDENTS:**

- If stay is less than 14 days, no screening for TB required
- If stay is greater than 14 days, standard screening is required (as stated above)

### **All new STAFF and VOLUNTEERS:**

- A baseline two-step TB skin test is the preferred screening recommendation (A volunteer is defined as those expecting to work 150 hours/year or more: approximately one half day per week)
- If a new staff member has a documented two-step TB skin test, done in past six months, it is not necessary to repeat it unless there has been exposure to an active TB case or travel to an area where TB is endemic

**For more information please call:**

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