

Preventing TB disease through finding and treating people with LTBI is crucial for ensuring that TB disease continues to decline in California.

Who to Test: Using the Risk Assessment

Because approximately 80% of tuberculosis is due to the reactivation of LTBI, routine assessment of TB risk followed by testing and treatment are crucial to preventing TB and its associated morbidity and mortality. However, routine testing of low risk populations is not recommended and may result in unnecessary evaluations and treatment because of falsely positive test results.

CDPH and CTCA created the TB Risk Assessment tools to assist clinical providers in determining whether or not to test for LTBI. There are separate Adult and Pediatric tools in this document that use the same basic testing strategy and risk factors but with minor differences.

The risk assessment tools are meant for use in busy clinical settings. They are designed to be simple and streamlined while being consistent with literature, other guidelines, and with the epidemiology of tuberculosis in California. However, not all situations are addressed in these tools and not all risk factors included in other guidelines are included here. The User Guides that follow each risk assessment provide additional information on specific populations and common situations. Additional guidance and answers to questions may be provided by local or state TB control programs.