



MENTAL HEALTH BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

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SUBJECT

Tuberculosis Infection Control Program

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SCOPE: State Mental Health Facilities
State Mental Retardation Facilities

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for tuberculosis (TB) surveillance and management of individuals/patients, staff, and volunteers in state operated facilities serving persons with mental illness and mental retardation.

BACKGROUND: With the increased incidence of immunocompromising diseases, trends in the rates of TB exposure and infection are also growing. Representatives of hospitals' and centers' infection control committees and infection control practitioners identified a need for statewide guidelines to apply national standards for TB detection and management promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and others. The guidelines developed, through the participation of facilities' staff, are intended to provide a foundation for hospital and center application by the facility's infection control committee.

RECOMMENDATION: The facility's infection control committee reviews and applies all applicable provisions of the attached tuberculosis control policy as part of its comprehensive infection control program.

The facility provides notice to all staff, volunteers, and local unions of the facility's tuberculosis control policy and maintains documentation of such notice.

RELATED BULLETIN:

Mental Health Bulletin #SMH-93-03, Tuberculosis Surveillance and Management, issued on June 15, 1993; effective date, July 1, 1993.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

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