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Dear Parent or Guardian,

Los Angeles County has one of the highest numbers of tuberculosis (TB) in the United States. TB is a germ that is spread through the air and usually affects the lungs, but it can also affect the brain, bones, or any other part of the body. Anyone can get infected with TB, but children who were born in or travel to countries where TB is common or who have spent time with someone with TB are more likely to get TB themselves. Luckily, TB is preventable and treatable if found early. To help keep students healthy, Los Angeles County has revised its TB screening requirement for children enrolling in TK–12 schools. The reason for the revision is to align the Los Angeles County requirement with statewide recommendations to reduce unnecessary exclusions of students from school.

If your child is enrolling in a Los Angeles County school for the first time:

1. Take the [Pediatric TB Risk Assessment Form](#) included in this packet to your child’s healthcare provider.
2. Have the provider complete the form up to **one year prior** to registration or up to **90 days** after your child starts school.
3. Return the completed form to your child’s school.

If your child’s provider is unable to complete the risk assessment within the time frame, please reach out to your child’s school where staff may be able to assist in completion of the pediatric risk assessment. If a risk is identified, please follow through with your child’s provider to get your child tested for TB. If you do not have insurance, you may complete the risk assessment at one of the [Department of Public Health walk-in sites](#) or visit a [low- or no-cost community clinics](#).

Thank you for helping us protect the health of your children and for keeping our school communities healthy.

Sincerely,

Julie Higashi, MD PhD
Tuberculosis Controller

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