

# ARKANSAS REGISTER

## Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State  
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Name of Department \_\_\_\_\_

Agency or Division Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Rule \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Publishing \_\_\_\_\_

Final Date for Public Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Location and Time of Public Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Infectious Disease Branch will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the ADH in Room #2508, 4815 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72205 to allow interested persons to comment on proposed revisions to the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Communicable Disease-Tuberculosis in Arkansas promulgated pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §20-15-701 et seq., §20-15-701 et seq. The proposed revisions will update guidelines for screening and testing healthcare workers for tuberculosis (TB) in the United States. The last update for this specific group was fifteen years ago. This rule revision reflects the new CDC recommendation for healthcare workers. In addition, the same revisions have also been included for other low risk groups. Low risk groups include employees of correctional facilities and inmates within the correctional facilities; employees of homeless shelters; and exclusion of other extremely low risk groups like employees of child and adult day care centers from needing TB testing.

Revisions include:

- Addition of requirement for TB testing with an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) or a tuberculin skin test (TST) for persons without documented prior TB disease or latent TB infection (LTBI).
- Addition of language for no routine serial TB testing at any interval after baseline in the absence of a known exposure or ongoing transmission.
- Added requirement to follow CDC guidelines on annual symptom screening for health care personnel with untreated LTBI and annual TB education of all health care personnel

Copies of the proposed revisions are available for public inspection and copying at the Arkansas Department of Health, 4815 West Markham, St, Little Rock, AR 72205, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor. The proposed revisions are also available for inspection online through the Arkansas Department of Health website: [www.healthy.arkansas.gov](http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov) proposed rules link.

The public may submit written comments regarding the proposed amendments to: Tiffany Vance, Branch Chief, Infectious Disease Branch, Arkansas Department of Health, 4815 West Markham St, Slot #33, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205; or in person to the Arkansas Department of Health, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 4815 West Markham St, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205 no later than 12:00 noon on September 30, 2019.