

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

## **Guidelines for Physician Referral of Patients to the Health Department for Active TB Disease and LTBI Evaluation/Treatment – September 2023**

The following provides guidance for referral of patients to the Department of Health-Collier (DOH-Collier) TB program based on the DOH-Collier strategies for the control and prevention of TB in Florida. The first two strategies focus on identifying and treating persons with TB disease and the identification and treatment of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) of contacts to TB cases. The third strategy is targeted testing and treatment to completion of persons with LTBI who are at high risk for progressing to TB disease.

Persons with suspected or confirmed TB disease are to be reported to the DOH-Collier by the next business day at 252-6007 in accordance with Florida Statutes 381.0031 and 392.53 and Rule 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code (FAC). A referral form is not required for reporting of suspect or confirmed TB cases.

Persons with Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) - Currently treatment for Latent TB Infection (LTBI) is only available for individuals with medical conditions that present a higher risk for accelerated progression to TB disease if left untreated. Individuals who do not have known recent exposure or an immune-compromising medical condition are encouraged to seek and complete a curative course of treatment from their Primary Care Provider (PCP) or Community Health Clinic (CHC). The TB Risk Screening and LTBI Referral form identifies those persons with LTBI at highest risk for progression to disease who the DOH-Collier will evaluate and treat as appropriate. Persons who do not meet these criteria may be treated for LTBI by their private provider.

### Referral Process for LTBI

1. Complete the TB Risk Screening and LTBI Referral form either fax a copy to the DOH-Collier (239-896-1902) or give the patient a copy to bring to their DOH-Collier appointment.
2. If an x-ray was performed, please provide the patient with a copy of their x-ray report and CD in DICOM format to bring to their appointment. X-ray reports can also be faxed prior to client DOH-Collier appointment.
3. All referred LTBI treatment services are provided contingent on available public health resources. Treatment services may be suspended at any time.

Please contact the following number listed below for further questions or information:

DOH-Collier Tuberculosis Program Office (TB Clinic)  
(239) 252-6007