TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING
FOR UCDHS EMPLOYEES

A. Pulmonary tuberculosis is caused by the bacteria, **Mycobacterium Tuberculosis**, and is spread by droplet nuclei that escape from the mouth and nose of infected people when they sneeze, cough, talk loudly, or sing. TB most frequently infects the lungs, but nearly every other body organ can be infected as well.

B. Your employer’s responsibility for protecting you from TB is to:
   1. Identify and segregate patients who have TB (See G.)
   2. Provide you with a working environment that protects you from **Mycobacterium tuberculosis** as much as possible.
   3. To supply you with personal protective equipment.
   4. Maintain a screening program that assures identification, counseling, and treatment of any employee who comes in contact with the **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.

C. During screening at Employee Health Services (EHS, a (PPD) TB skin test is offered. Please Tell the EHS nurse if:
   1. You are sensitive to PPD (previous positive TB skin test or active TB).
   2. You might have insensitivity to PPD. This can be due to any of these:
      a) Measles, Mumps, Rubella, or Polio, or their vaccines in the last month.
      b) You are HIV positive
      c) You may have a suppressed immune system from prednisone or other immunosuppressive medicines or a medical condition.

   (This information remains confidential between you and Employee Health Services.)

D. A TB test is read as positive by the amount of swelling (induration), not erythema, at the Injection site 48 to 72 hours after the test has been administered.

E. A positive TB skin test suggests TB infection (but usually not contagious disease), the EHS Clinic will provide preventive assessment and, if needed, treatment free of charge. INH is prescribed, unless exposure was to a known patient with multi-drug resistant **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**. By taking INH for 9 months, you will significantly decrease your risk of developing active TB. Uninterrupted INH treatment is best, since early discontinuation or sporadic use of the medication will cause the development of resistant strain of TB.

F. Your responsibility is to comply with the conditions of the screening program, to heed all Warnings, to use personal protective equipment, and to report to your supervisor any situation that you think might be harmful to the public’s health.

G. Physicians are responsible for identifying and isolating TB and suspected TB patients. Be aware of sign, symptoms and radiologic manifestations of TB. Consult with the Infectious Diseases physician for confirmation.