Guidelines for Estimating the Start of the Infectious Period when Initiating TB Contact Investigations (CI)

These recommendations assume that: (a) a decision to initiate a CI was made; (b) a thorough initial client interview was performed; (c) at least one sputum sample was observed or induced; (d) sputum samples are high quality.

Additional epidemiologic or clinical factors may affect the start of the infectious period and should be considered on a case-by-case basis (e.g., delayed diagnosis, treatment w/floroquinolones, etc.) Contact TB Control for consultation.

Index Case Characteristics

TB Sx	Sputum Smear +	Cavitary	Estimated Start of Infectious Period
1. Yes	No	No	3 months before symptom onset or first positive finding (e.g., abnormal CXR consistent with TB disease), whichever is longer
2. Yes	Yes	Yes	3 months before symptom onset or first positive finding consistent with TB disease, whichever is longer
3. No	No	No	4 weeks before date of suspected diagnosis
4. No	Yes	Yes	3 months before first positive finding consistent with TB
a. Yes	Yes	No	VDH recommends following #1 above
b. Yes	No	Yes	VDH recommends following #1 above
c. No	Yes	No	VDH recommends following #4 above
d. No	No	Yes	VDH recommends following #4 above

Adapted from the Contact Investigation Guidelines, MMWR, 2005: 54 (No. RR-15): Table 2, p. 7

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