

Priority Assignment Tool for Cases & Suspects and their Contacts

- I.** Priority assignments of contacts exposed to persons with suspected or confirmed **AFB sputum smear (+) pulmonary/laryngeal/pleural** TB; TB suspects or confirmed cases with **cavitary** chest radiographs

High Priority Contacts:

- All household contacts
- Anyone aged <5 yrs old
- Contacts with Medical Risk Factors: HIV or other immune compromising condition
- Contacts exposed during a medical procedure: Bronchoscope, Sputum induction or Autopsy
- Contacts in a congregate setting
- Contacts with exposure exceeding environmental limits (Nurse Case Manager discretion)

Medium Priority Contacts:

- Anyone aged 5-15 yrs old
- Contacts with exposure exceeding environmental limits (TB Control suggested limits)

Low Priority Contacts: Anyone other than above; only considered if expansion is warranted

- II.** Priority assignments of contacts exposed to persons with suspected or confirmed **AFB sputum smear (-) pulmonary/laryngeal/pleural** TB; **abnormal/non-cavitary** chest radiograph **consistent** with TB disease; **NAA (+/-); Culture (+)**

High Priority Contacts:

- Anyone aged <5yrs old
- Contacts with Medical Risk Factors: see above
- Contacts exposed during a medical procedure: see above

Medium Priority Contacts:

- All household contacts
- Contacts in a congregate setting
- Contacts with exposure exceeding environmental limits (TB Control suggested limits)

Low Priority Contacts: Anyone other than above; only considered if expansion is warranted

- III.** Priority assignments of contacts exposed to persons with **suspected** tuberculosis (TB) with abnormal chest radiographs **not consistent** with TB disease; **AFB sputum smear (-); NAA (-); Culture (-)**

High Priority Contacts:

- None

Medium Priority Contacts:

- All household contacts
- Anyone aged <5yrs old
- Contacts with Medical Risk Factors: see above
- Contacts exposed during a medical procedure: see above

Low Priority Contacts: Anyone other than above; only considered if expansion is warranted

- IV.** Contact Investigation is not indicated for Nonpulmonary cases if Pulmonary/Pleural TB are ruled out

NOTES:

NAA - Nucleic Acid Amplification test

AFB - Acid Fast Bacilli from sputum

Exposure exceeding environmental limits - VDH TB Control has suggested the following environmental exposure limits allowing some discretion to warrant expansion or limitation of Contact Investigations:

- 8 hours - Very Small spaces (car, small office, 120 square feet)
- 24 hours - Small/Medium spaces (classroom, meeting room, etc.)
- 50 hours - Medium/Large spaces (cafeteria, small church, etc.)
- 100 hours - Large spaces (gymnasium, auditorium, etc.)