



National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

April 4, 2016

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Coordinator  
c/o U.S. Preventive Services Task Force  
540 Gaither Road  
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Draft Recommendation Statement for Latent Tuberculosis Infection Screening

Dear U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) Members:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), I am writing to provide comment on the USPSTF draft recommendation statement on screening for latent tuberculosis infection in adults who are at increased risk for infection. NACCHO represents approximately 2,800 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.

NACCHO thanks the USPSTF for reviewing the evidence of benefits and harms of this critical preventive service. NACCHO supports the USPSTF's grade B recommendation for screening for latent tuberculosis infection in adults at increased risk, including persons born in, or former residents of, countries with increased tuberculosis prevalence and persons who currently live or have lived in high-risk congregate settings such as homeless shelters and correctional facilities. NACCHO agrees that this grade reflects the body of evidence that supports the net benefit of screening this population and believes that this grade will enable public health and healthcare providers to better identify affected individuals and link them to appropriate care if testing is positive. In addition, because of the characteristics of adults identified as at increased risk, this change represents an opportunity to expand critical health care to affected populations.

NACCHO applauds that the draft clinical considerations included with the recommendation highlight the essential role of local public health in the control and elimination of tuberculosis. Local health departments investigate and ensure treatment of active tuberculosis cases and perform contact tracing and medical surveillance of contacts. Improving and expanding domestic public health capacity to implement tuberculosis prevention and control activities is critical to keeping pace with current evolving advances in testing and treatment, particularly as increased screenings for latent tuberculosis infection identify more individuals requiring care.



NACCHO supports USPSTF's work to expand the scope of testing for latent tuberculosis infection, building upon available screening technology and advancing the goal of tuberculosis elimination in the United States. NACCHO looks forward to building and expanding the capacity necessary for supporting the USPSTF recommendations on screening for latent tuberculosis infection. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this proposed rule and input on this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact Lilly Kan, Senior Director for Infectious Disease and Informatics, at 202-507-4238 or [lkan@naccho.org](mailto:lkan@naccho.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Hasbrouck', written in a cursive style.

LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH  
Executive Director