



# **TB Infection Control in a Clinic Setting**

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Essentials of TB Nurse Case Management Online

***Delvina “Mimi” Ford, BSN, GCPH, RN, CIC, CCRN-K*** has the following disclosures to make:

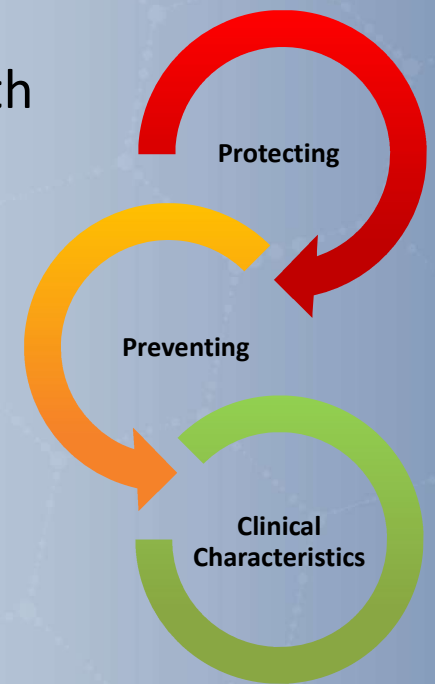
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- No conflict of interests
- No relevant financial relationships with any commercial companies pertaining to this educational activity



# Objectives

- Infection Control Measures in a clinic setting:
  - Choosing the best option for the patient and health care personnel (surgical mask vs. N-95).
  - Preventing transmission with considerations of space, ventilation, and air cleaning methods.
- Describe factors associated with infectiousness:
  - Clinical characteristics.
  - Extrapulmonary vs. pulmonary tuberculosis.
  - Infectiousness of children vs. adults.



# Best option for patient and health care personnel

- Per CDC, the minimum respiratory protection a health care worker should wear is a **filtering facepiece respirator (FFR)** to prevent the inhalation of airborne droplet nuclei.
- Patients with infectious TB should wear a **surgical mask** to prevent expelling droplet nuclei into the air.



*The TB patient (left) is wearing a surgical mask. The health care worker (right) is wearing a filtering facepiece respirator (FFR).*

- The FFR is better known as the N95 respirator.
- Patients should not be wearing the N95 respirator.

## Understanding the Difference



**Surgical Mask**

**N95 Respirator**

For the patient.

Warning: If a TB patient is wearing an N95 they can have increase respiratory distress.

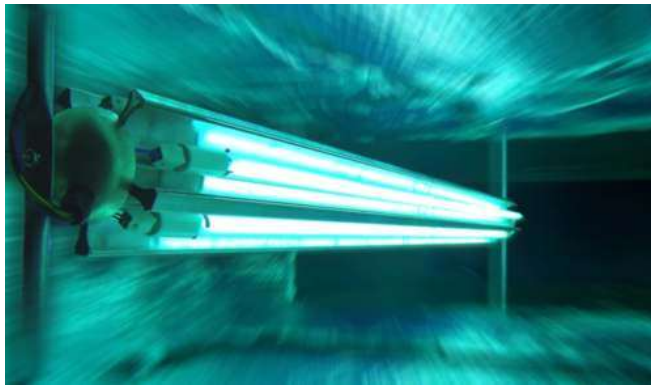
For the HCW.

Fit Testing should be done to ensure fit.

# Let's talk about Environmental Controls

## Primary Controls

- Controlling the Source
- Local exhaust ventilation
- Diluting/removing contaminated air



## Secondary Controls

- All (airborne infection isolation room)
- Airflow
- Cleaning using HEPA/UV

Photo Credits: <http://www.flanders-csc.com/tb.htm>

<https://www.prlog.org/10226208-sanuvox-uv-air-sterilization-systems-ability-to-destroy-airborne-influenza-including-swine-flu.html>

# For example, lets look at your home setting

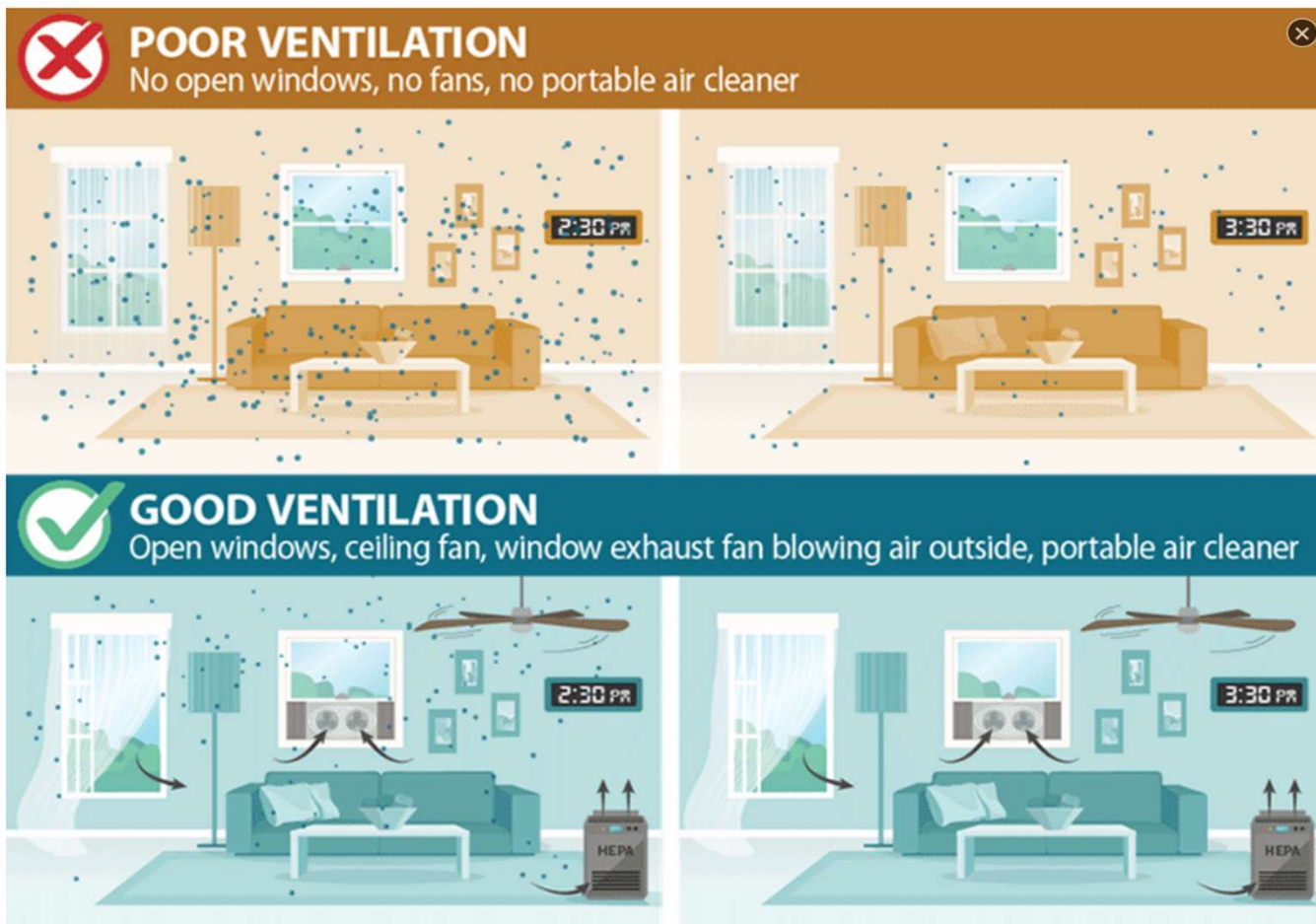


Photo Credit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/improving-ventilation-home.html>



# What is your ventilation flow? How many ACH? Is it positive, negative, or neutral?



Air change per hour (ACH) is the number of times that the total air volume in a room or space is completely removed and replaced in an hour.

**Positive** pushes out of the room. You don't necessarily want this in a clinic setting for TB.

**Negative** sucks into the ventilation system. This is great for your airborne isolation rooms.

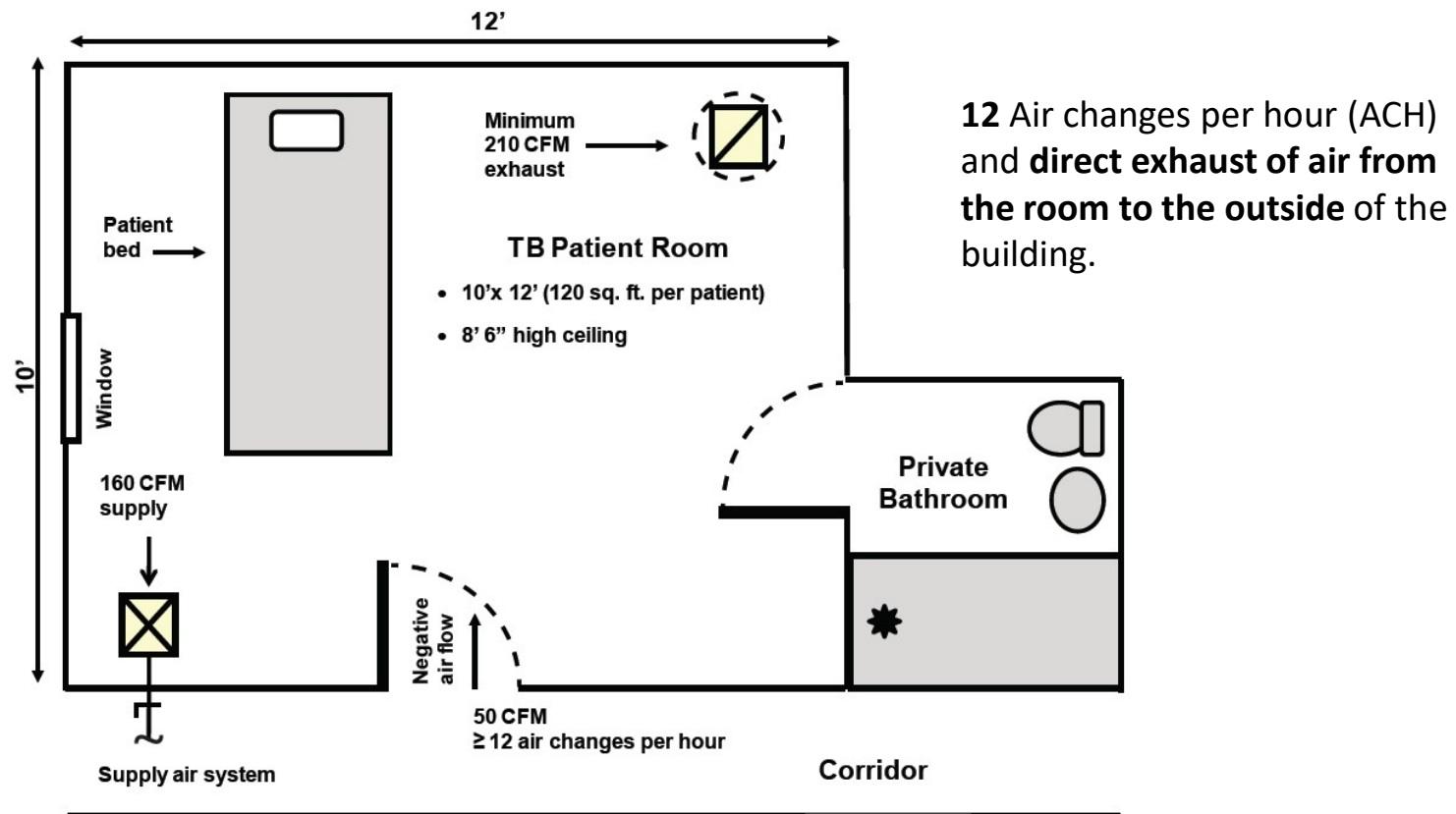
**Neutral** or light positive is the normal for most clinic type settings.





# All Room

Figure 7.5  
Airborne Infection Isolation (All) Room



# Airborne Containment Removal

Table B.1. Air changes/hour (ACH) and time required for airborne-contaminant removal by efficiency \*

| ACH § ¶ | Time (mins.) required for removal<br>99% efficiency | Time (mins.) required for removal<br>99.9% efficiency |
|---------|---|---|
| 2       | 138   | 207   |
| 4       | 69  | 104   |
| 6+      | 46  | 69  |
| 8       | 35  | 52  |
| 10+     | 28  | 41  |
| 12+     | 23  | 35  |
| 15+     | 18  | 28  |
| 20      | 14  | 21  |
| 50      | 6   | 8   |

\* This table is revised from Table S3-1 in reference 4 and has been adapted from the formula for the rate of purging airborne contaminants presented in reference 1435.

+ Denotes frequently cited ACH for patient-care areas.

Photo Credit: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/appendix/air.html#tableb1>



# Identifying Factors Associated with Infectiousness

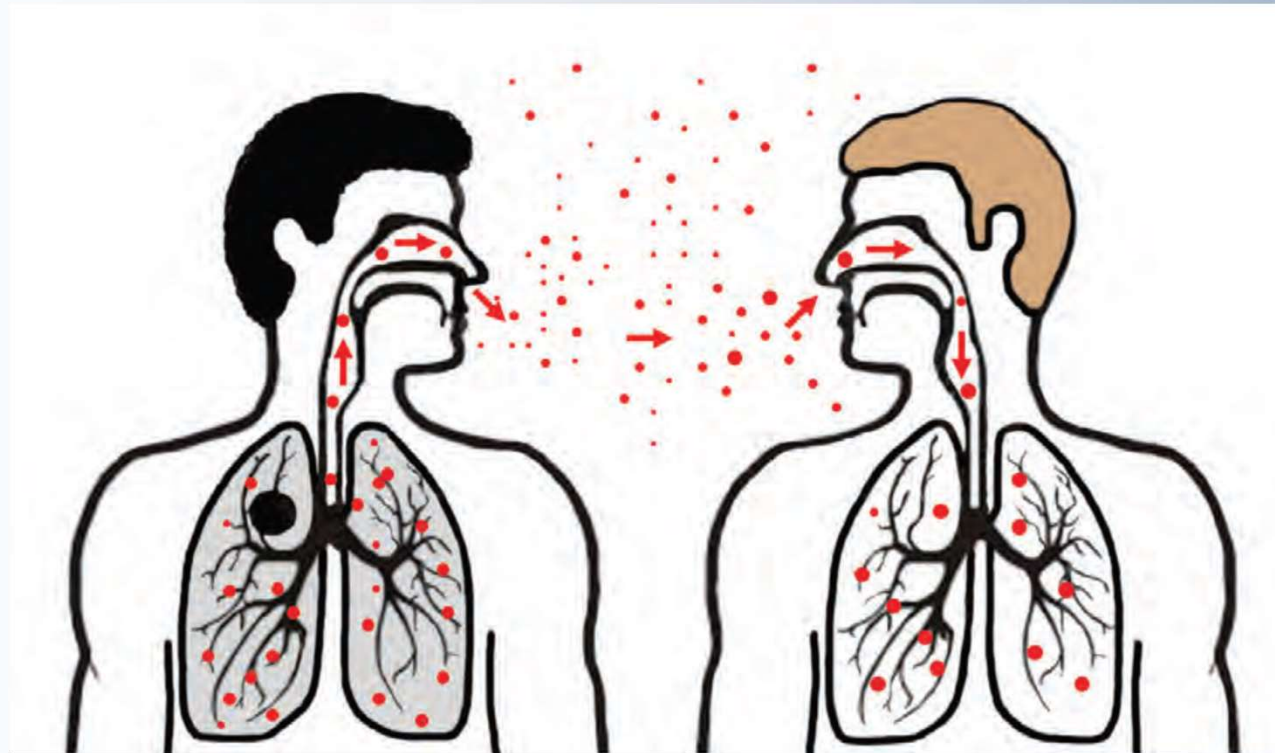


Photo Credit: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/education/corecurr/pdf/chapter2.pdf>

**Table 2.1**  
**Factors that Determine the**  
**Probability of Transmission of *M. tuberculosis***

| Factor         | Description  |
|----------------|--|
| Susceptibility | Susceptibility (immune status) of the exposed individual   |
| Infectiousness | Infectiousness of the person with TB disease is directly related to the number of tubercle bacilli that he or she expels into the air. Persons who expel many tubercle bacilli are more infectious than patients who expel few or no bacilli (Table 2.2) (see Chapter 7, TB Infection Control) |
| Environment    | Environmental factors that affect the concentration of <i>M. tuberculosis</i> organisms (Table 2.3)  |
| Exposure       | Proximity, frequency, and duration of exposure (Table 2.4)   |

**Table 2.2**  
**Characteristics of a Patient with TB Disease that**  
**Are Associated with Infectiousness**

| Factor                      | Description   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Clinical                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of cough, especially lasting 3 weeks or longer</li> <li>• Respiratory tract disease, especially with involvement of the larynx (highly infectious)</li> <li>• Failure to cover the mouth and nose when coughing</li> <li>• Inappropriate or inadequate treatment (drugs, duration)</li> </ul> |
| Procedure                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergoing cough-inducing or aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., bronchoscopy, sputum induction, administration of aerosolized medications)</li> </ul>  |
| Radiographic and laboratory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cavitation on chest radiograph</li> <li>• Positive culture for <i>M. tuberculosis</i></li> <li>• Positive AFB sputum smear result</li> </ul>   |

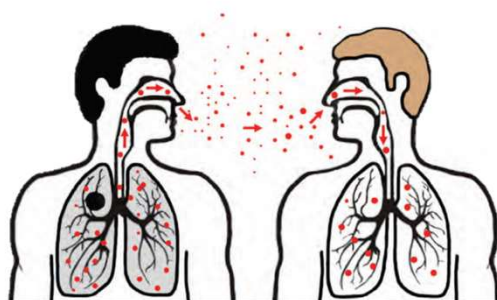


Photo Credit: <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/education/corecurr/pdf/chapter2.pdf>

## CDC Guidelines 2005 - Suspected TB Rule Out

Another diagnosis is made that explains the clinical syndrome

Three consecutive, negative AFB sputum smears,  
Each of the three sputum specimens collected 8 – 24  
hour intervals

At least one specimen from early morning  
(respiratory secretions pool overnight)



# CDC Guidelines 2005 - Confirmed TB Release from Airborne Infectious Isolation

Three consecutive negative AFB sputum smear results, each collected in 8–24-hour intervals



At least one being an early morning specimen



Standard multidrug anti-tuberculosis treatment (minimum of 2 weeks)



Demonstrated clinical improvement



# Extrapulmonary TB

larynx,  
lymph nodes,  
pleura,  
brain,  
kidneys,  
or the  
bones  
and joints

Other than the lungs:

## Main sites of Extrapulmonary tuberculosis

### Central nervous system

- Meningitis

### Lymphatics

- Scrofula (of the neck)

### Pleura

- Tuberculosis  
pleurisy

### Disseminated

- Miliary  
tuberculosis

### Bones and joints of spine

- Pott's disease

### Genito- urinary

- Urogenital  
tuberculosis

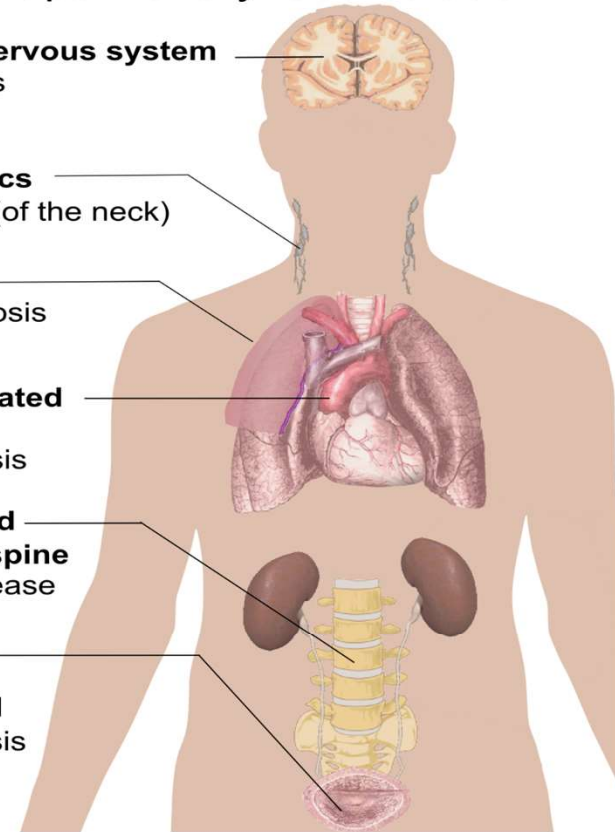


Photo Credit: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Extrapulmonary\\_tuberculosis\\_symptoms.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Extrapulmonary_tuberculosis_symptoms.png)



# Extrapulmonary TB – Draining Lesion

Usually not Infectious unless:

1. Pulmonary disease in addition to
2. it is located in the oral cavity or the larynx
3. includes an open abscess or lesion in which the concentration of organism is high or if drainage fluid is aerosolized.

Discontinue precautions only when patient is improving clinically, and drainage has ceased or there are three consecutive negative cultures of continued drainage. *CDC Appendix A 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions.*



# Pediatric TB



TB disease in a person < 15 years of age



Children with tuberculosis are rarely contagious, but their caregivers may be.



Isolate children of any age with adult type disease for example extensive infiltrates, sputum production, or cavity on chest x-ray should be isolated when in health care facilities until it can be determined that they are not infectious.

CDC TB guidelines 2005



# Review

TB measures in a clinic setting.

- HCW wear N95 respirators.
- Preventing transmission with placing an active TB patient in a room.
- Ensuring appropriate ventilation and if active TB allowing the room turn over time.

Factors associated with infectiousness:

- We reviews clinical characteristics: Susceptibility, Infectiousness, Environment, Exposure
- Extrapulmonary vs Pulmonary TB
- Children vs Adults with infectiousness



# Questions?



My daughter Alison  
and her Aunt Joanne  
(LTBI survivor).  
Machu Picchu, Peru  
June 2017



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