TB & Infection Control Sept 8, 2023

James Sunstrum, M.D. Corewell Health – East, Westland, Michigan TB Consultant, Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services



Objectives

- When to place a patient isolation
- When to remove a patient
- How to best **PROTECT** you and your staff from TB infection
- How to **REDUCE** the duration of isolation

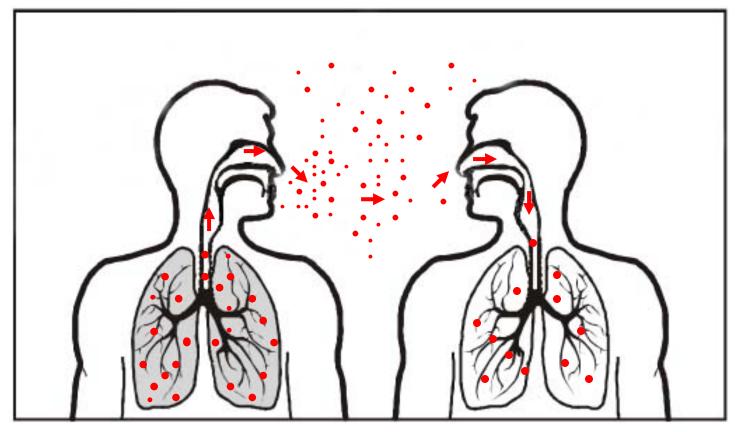
Terminology.....

- Administrative controls
- Airborne Infection Isolation (AII)
- Cough-inducing procedures
- Environmental controls
- Fit test
- HEPA Filter

- Negative pressure
- Personal respirator N95
- Surgical mask
- UV light



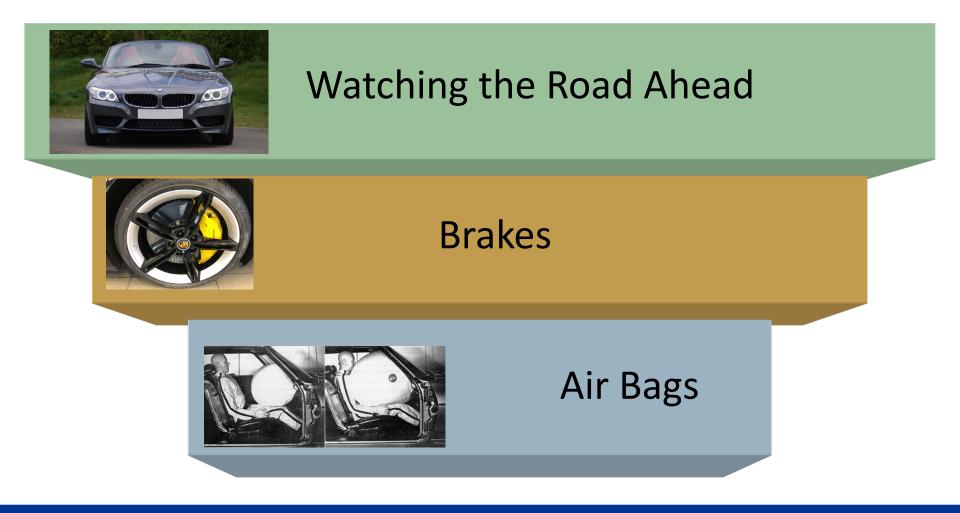
TB Transmission (4)



Dots in air represent droplet nuclei containing *M. tuberculosis*



Hierarchy of Automobile Safety



Hierarchy of Infection Control



Administrative Controls

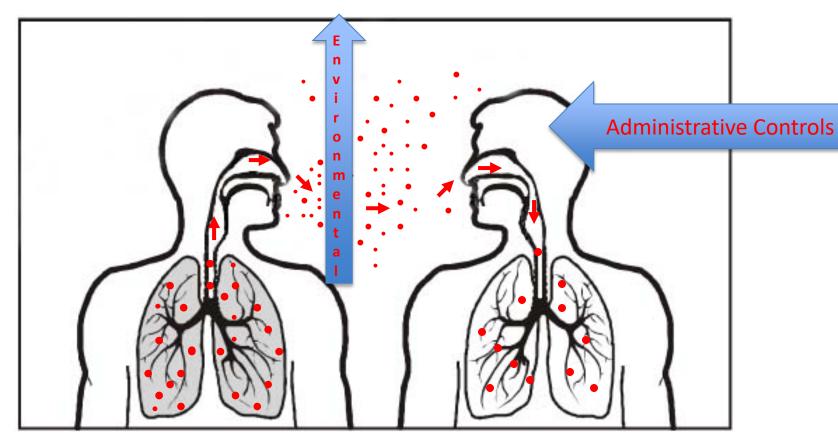


Environmental Controls



Respiratory Protection





<u>Administrative</u> controls are the first and most important level of the hierarchy.

Environmental controls reduce airborne aerosols.

Suspect TB if...

- Cough > 2-3 weeks
- Gross hemoptysis
- Exposure to TB?
- +PPD or IGRA?
- From endemic country?
- Substance abuse or HIV?



My hospital ER August 2018

 "Blood in vomit, x 1 day, pt reports 30 weeks pregnant, some abdominal cramping, denies vaginal bleeding. pt states blood tinged sputum with cough also; pt does report dx pneumonia 1 month pta and hospitalization at st joe's"

- ER physician notes gross hemoptysis 2 tablespoons.
- Notes patient from Guinea in 2016
- Airborne Infection Isolation ordered <u>before</u>
 X-rays







What was the most important component for Infection Control?

- Administrative component
- Cognitive awareness on the part of ER physician

• Isolate 10 patients to discover 1 case of active TB!



7 factors that affect the infectiousness of a TB patient.

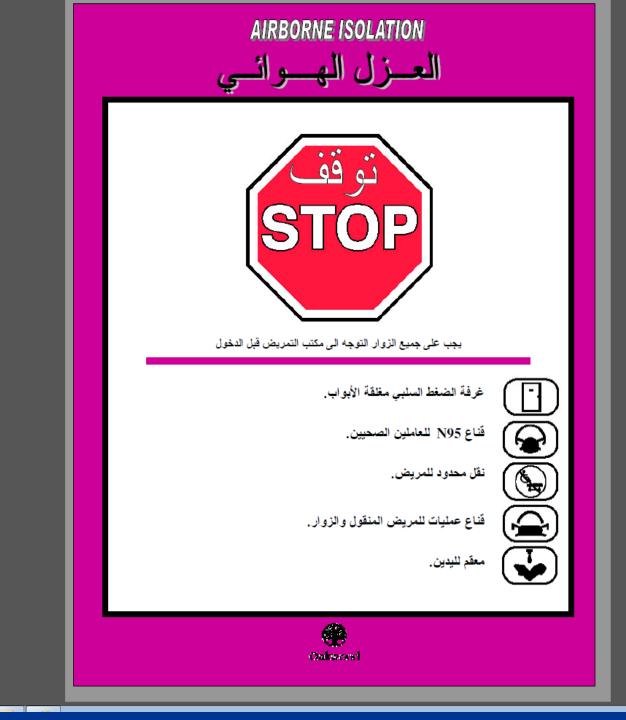
- Presence of a cough
- Chest x-ray showing cavity in lung
- Positive acid-fast bacilli sputum smear result
- TB of lungs, airway, or larynx
- Patient not covering mouth or nose when coughing
- Not receiving adequate treatment
- Undergoing cough-inducing procedures



Airborne Infection Isolation (AII)

- Private room
- Negative pressure with 6-12 air exchanges per hour
- Signage
- N95 respirators





Ventilation Technologies (6) Mechanical Ventilation

- AII rooms are designed to prevent spread of droplet nuclei expelled by patient
 - Negative pressure
 - Clean air flows from corridors into AII room
- Air cannot escape AII room
 - Exhausted outdoors or passed through filter

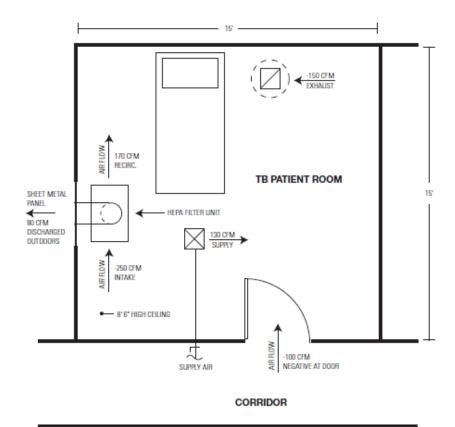


Image credit: Francis J. Curry National TB Center

Module 5 – Infectiousness and Infection Control

Respirator for Health-Care Workers

• Health-care worker wearing a respirator



- Respirators
 - Designed to filter out droplet nuclei from being inhaled by the health-care worker and other individuals
 - Should properly fit different face sizes and features
 - Should NOT be worn by the patient



Surgical Mask for Persons with Infectious TB Disease

 Infectious TB patient wearing a surgical mask



- Surgical masks
 - Designed to stop droplet nuclei from being spread (exhaled) by the patient
 - Should NOT be worn by the health-care worker



What is a placebo mask?

• Only 1 strap, instead of 2

Held to face with a hand

• Facial hair interferes with seal



The pregnant TB patient is moved from ER to an Isolation Room on the Medical Floor.....

• When can the ER room be used again?

- 46 minutes to remove 99% of airborne contaminants
- **60 minutes** is considered adequate.

• MMWR Dec. 30, 2005

>90% of Isolation patients don't have TB. How do we get them released quickly?

- Sputum quality critical
- Induce with nebulizer if needed
- AFB smear
- <u>Plus</u> NAAT (PCR) regardless whether AFB smear is positive or negative.





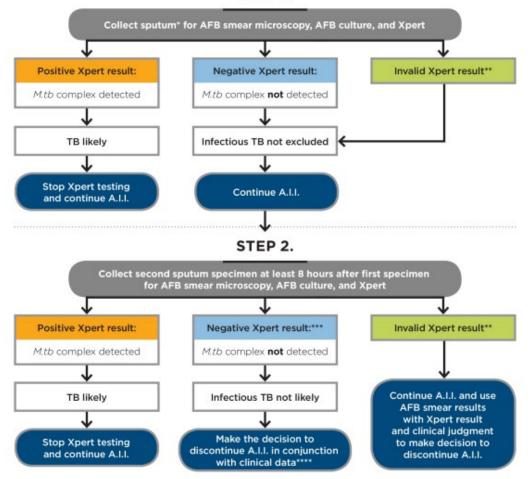
Consensus statement on the use of Cepheid Xpert MTB/RIF® assay in making decisions to discontinue airborne infection isolation in healthcare settings

http://www.tbcontrollers.org/resources/airborne-infection-isolation



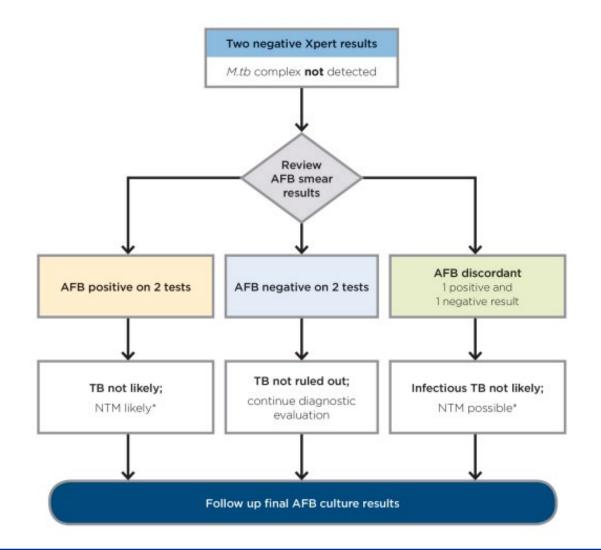
Use of GeneXpert in Discontinuing Airborne Infection Isolation

STEP 1.



M. tb: Mycobacterium tuberculosis A.I.I.: Airborne infection isolation

Application of AFB Sputum Smear Microscopy to Negative Xpert Results





Remove from Isolation?

- Airborne precautions can be discontinued when infectious TB disease is considered unlikely and either
 - Another diagnosis is made that explains the clinical syndrome,
 - The patient has three negative AFB sputum smear results, or
 - The patient has a sputum specimen that has a negative NAA test result and two additional sputum specimens that are AFB-smear negative.*

or

– GeneXpert [®] neg x 1 (or 2) - Good Sputum samples!**



Duration of Isolation after TB treatment started ?

- Patients rapidly become noninfectious after effective multiple-drug chemotherapy instituted.
- Rapid elimination of viable MTB from sputum, and reduction in cough frequency.
- But no ideal test exists to assess the infective potential of a TB patient.



Once TB treatment started, sputum smears may remain positive....

	AFB SMEAR	NAAT	AFB CULTURE
Before treatment	+++	++	Positive
14 days	++	Do not repeat	Positive
28 days	+	Do not repeat	Negative
60 days		Do not repeat	Negative



Start INH, RIF, PZA, EMB

- 90% reduction in viable MTB in 48 hours
- 99% reduction by 14-21 days of treatment.

Is patient going home, or remaining in hospital?



Going Home

- No minimum number of days of anti-TB treatment before going home if:
 - On treatment, likely to be susceptible
 - Showing clinical improvement
 - DOT arranged
 - Home Isolation agreement
 - Does <u>not</u> need negative AFB smears

Home Isolation

- Capable of self care
- Cooperative
- Not sharing room with immunocompromised persons or children (TST or IGRA negative)
- DOT agreement

Criteria for determining when during therapy a patient with pulmonary TB has become noninfectious (MMWR Nov. 4, 2005)

- Negligible risk of MDR TB
- Received standard TB treatment 14-21 days
- Complete adherence by DOT
- Clinical improvement
- Close contacts identified and evaluated.
- AFB smears show reduced or negative organisms

Returning to work or school

- 14 days treatment
- Clinical improvement
- Number of AFB decreasing
- Appropriate worksite
- Outdoor work or solitary work may return earlier



Questions?



Interactive Question #1

- Question: A nurse has been treated in 2015 for latent TB infection. Is this nurse required to wear an N95 mask to care for a TB suspect in Airborne Infection Isolation?
- Yes?
- No?



Answer #1

- Question: A nurse has been treated in 2015 for latent TB infection. Is this nurse required to wear an N95 mask for Airborne Isolation patient?
- **Yes?** Prior TB infection does not confer immunity. Reinfection can occur. N95 mask necessary



Interactive Question #2

- Question: A confirmed TB patient is discharged home at 2PM. His room can be occupied by a new patient at:
- 2:30 PM
- 3:30 PM
- 9:00 PM
- 8:00 AM the following day



Answer #2

- Question: A confirmed TB patient is discharged home at 2PM. His room can be occupied by a new patient at:
- **3:30 PM** A minimum of 60 minutes is needed for ventilation systems to remove 99% of aerosols from a room.

Interactive Question #3

- Question: Drug-susceptible pulmonary TB is confirmed, and my patient has been on DOT for 6 weeks. He feels much improved, cough is resolved. AFB on smear has reduced from 4+ to 1+. Does this mean treatment is failing, or drug resistance has occurred?
- Yes?
- No?



Answer #3

- Question: Drug-susceptible pulmonary TB is confirmed, and my patient has been on DOT for 6 weeks. He feels much improved, cough is resolved. AFB smear has dropped from 4+ to 1+. Does this mean treatment is failing, or drug resistance has occurred?
- No. The overall clinical picture is showing improvement, and AFB smears are showing reduced organisms. Dead AFB may remain visible on smears for several weeks. Consult your TB physician for guidance.