**Information Regarding Tuberculosis (TB) testing for International Students**

Ball State University must comply with certain health requirements for international students attending classes on the residential campus. Indiana State law requires that international students be tested for Tuberculosis in the United States prior to matriculation. Therefore, testing for tuberculosis that a student has had performed prior to arriving in the United States does not meet the State requirement.

In order to comply with Indiana State law, Ball State undertakes the following actions:

**Screening Requirements**

International students must meet with a representative of the Health Center, usually a nurse or medical assistant, after their arrival in the United States and before classes start. This visit will be coordinated with International Programs and will take place in the Health Center. Typically this is scheduled during the week of orientation.

Students will have their blood drawn by nursing staff. The sample will be sent to the IUHealth laboratory to have a T-spot performed. The T-spot is an interferon-gamma release assay which is the preferred test for tuberculosis.

On the day that the test is collected, students will be given an appointment date and time to return for their results and to discuss immunization requirements. This return visit is mandatory.

If a student’s test is borderline, then the student will be required to return to the Health Center immediately for a screening questionnaire. He/she will also be required to repeat the test in four weeks.

If a student’s test is positive, the student will be required to return to the Health Center immediately for a screening questionnaire. The student will also be required to obtain a chest x-ray. Next, the student will meet with the director of the Health Center or a qualified person designated by the director to discuss the TB test and x-ray results. At that time the director or the designee will also review treatment options.

If a student is found to be infectious with active Tuberculosis, he or she will not be allowed to attend classes until he or she is determined to be no longer infectious.

Each student is responsible for payment of the TB test. Students can pay in advance with a credit card by going to the following website: https://commerce.cashnet.com/BALL_ESS007. Any students that have not paid online prior to their visit to the Health Center will be required to pay cash for the test at the time of the visit.
**Prior TB Testing**

Students who have had a TB Test already performed in the United States will be asked for documentation. The documentation must meet the following requirements:

1. It must be dated after the student’s last visit to a country outside of the United States.

2. If the student has not traveled, the test must be within a year from the date of admission.

3. A TB skin test must document the millimeters of induration and an interpretation of positive or negative. Moreover, it must include both the time and date administered and read. Finally, it must be signed by a health care provider and it must include contact information for the health care facility where it was administered.

4. An interferon-gamma release assay, such as a T-spot or Quantiferon, must include an interpretation of positive or negative. It must be signed by a health care provider and it must include contact information for the health care facility where it was administered.

**Non-compliance of Testing Policy**

Any student who has not had a TB test performed by the end of the 1st week of the academic term will be contacted by either the Rinker Center or their advisor that he/she needs to complete this requirement and will not be able to attend classes until testing is performed.

Personnel from the health center will make a reasonable effort to contact students who have had abnormal TB testing by the first day of classes via phone or BSU email. If a student does not respond, then the Health Center will contact a representative from the Rinker Center or the assigned advisor to notify the student that he/she needs to return to the Health Center immediately.

Any student who fails to begin the testing process or who fails to follow through with the testing process within or after that time will be suspended from the University and will not be permitted to remain enrolled.

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