

Information Regarding TB testing for International Students

Ball State University must comply with certain health requirements for international students attending classes on the residential campus. Among other matters, the law requires that international students be tested for Tuberculosis in the United States prior to matriculation.

In order to comply with this requirement, Ball State undertakes the following actions:

Screening Requirements

International students must meet with a representative of the University' Health Center 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.

The TB test is a blood sample drawn to be tested by interferon-gamma release assay. The Health Center personnel will obtain informed consent from the student, obtain a blood sample, and submit it for testing.

Students will be given an appointment date and time to return for their results, and will receive a written copy of their results. If their test is positive or equivocal, the student will meet with the director of the Health Center or a qualified person designated by the director to discuss the test results and perform whatever further evaluation is prudent.

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

The students will be responsible for payment of the test. The Health Center personnel will collect payment directly in cash or charge the fee to the student's university bursar account.

Prior TB Testing

Students who have had a TB Test previously will be asked for any documentation of prior testing for Tuberculosis in the United States. The documentation must meet the following requirements:

1. It must be dated since the student's last visit to his or her country of origin.
2. If it is a TB skin test it must document the millimeters of induration and 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.
3. If it is an interferon-gamma release assay, it 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

Personnel from the health center will make a reasonable effort to contact students who have not met the TB testing requirement by the first day of classes. Any student who has not completed the testing process by the end of the 10th class day of the academic term will receive written notice from the Office of Student Affairs that an interim suspension from classes will be in place and a student will have 2 business days to contact the Health Center and begin the testing process. Any student who fails to begin the testing process within that time or who fails to follow through with the testing process will be suspended from the University and will not be permitted to remain enrolled.

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