

Contact Investigations for Tuberculosis-Part II

Sponsored by

Michigan Department of Community Health

American Lung Association of Michigan

Objectives

- Describe how to conduct contact investigations and identify data that should be collected
- Identify common barriers to contact investigations and management of contacts

Contact Investigation Steps

1. Initiation
2. Data collection
3. TB transmission risk assessment
4. Contact field investigation
5. Establishing investigational priorities
6. Medical evaluation of close contacts
7. Evaluate need to do further testing based on infection rate
8. 3 month follow-up of close contacts
9. Reevaluate need to do further testing based on infection rate
10. Contact investigation report

Contact Investigation Steps

- Initiation
 - Start investigation with interview within 1 working day of case report for infectious persons, 3 working days for others
- Data Collection
 - Medical record review
 - Case interview
 - Contacts identified

Medical Record Review

- Date of birth
- Disease site
- Bacteriology results
- CXR results
- Symptoms/duration
- Social worker's notes
- Demographic data
- HIV status
- PPD results
- Previous history of TB
- TB treatment regimen
- Establish infectious period

Establishing an Infectious Period

- Use 3 months before TB dx as beginning
- Ends after 3 consecutive negative sputum specimens and 2-3 weeks appropriate treatment
- May find that a more conservative estimate is appropriate in some situations

Contact Investigation Steps

- Case interview
 - Establish rapport and trust-confidentiality
 - Elicit duration and location of exposure
 - Home
 - Work/school
 - Leisure
 - Obtain locating information
 - Demographic
 - Risk factors

Contact Investigation Steps

- Case interview (cont.)
 - Environmental information
 - Frequency and duration of episodes sharing air space
 - Provide TB education
 - Use open-ended questions!!!

Contact Investigation Steps

- TB transmission risk assessment
 - Person factors
 - Time factors
 - Place factors
 - Host factors

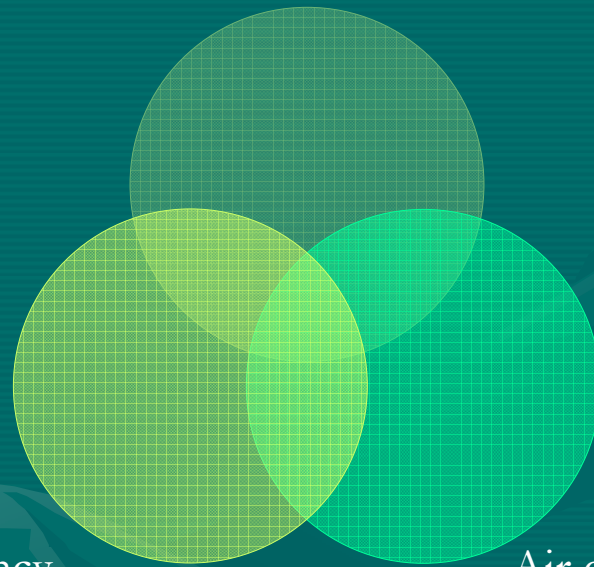


Infectiousness Factors

Person
Index case and contact

Time
Duration and frequency

Place
Air circulation, proximity, etc



Person

- Laboratory results
 - Positive AFB smear
 - Rare-possibly infectious
 - Few-probably infectious
 - Numerous-probably very infectious
 - Remember a +AFB smear is not conclusive for *M. tuberculosis*; it simply means that there are mycobacteria in the specimen.
- Clinical indicators
 - Coughing, sneezing, producing sputum
 - Length of symptoms
 - Length of time on anti-TB medication
 - Chest x-ray

Person

Likelihood of Disease Transmission

Clinical Data	Higher	Lower
TB disease location	Laryngeal/ pulmonary	Extrapulmonary
Smear status	Positive	Negative
Smear source	Spontaneous	Induced or clinical
Chest x-ray	Cavitary disease	Non cavitary
PPD result	Large >15mm	Small <15mm
Symptoms	Cough	No cough

Place

Environmental Indicators

- Circulation of air
- Length of time in the environment
- Size of the facility
- Location of the index case within the facility
- Infectiousness of the patient

Place

Likelihood of Disease Transmission

Factor	Higher	Lower
Volume of air common to case/contacts	Small	Large
Adequacy of ventilation	Poor	Good
Recirculated air	Yes	No
Upper room UV light	Not present	Present

Time

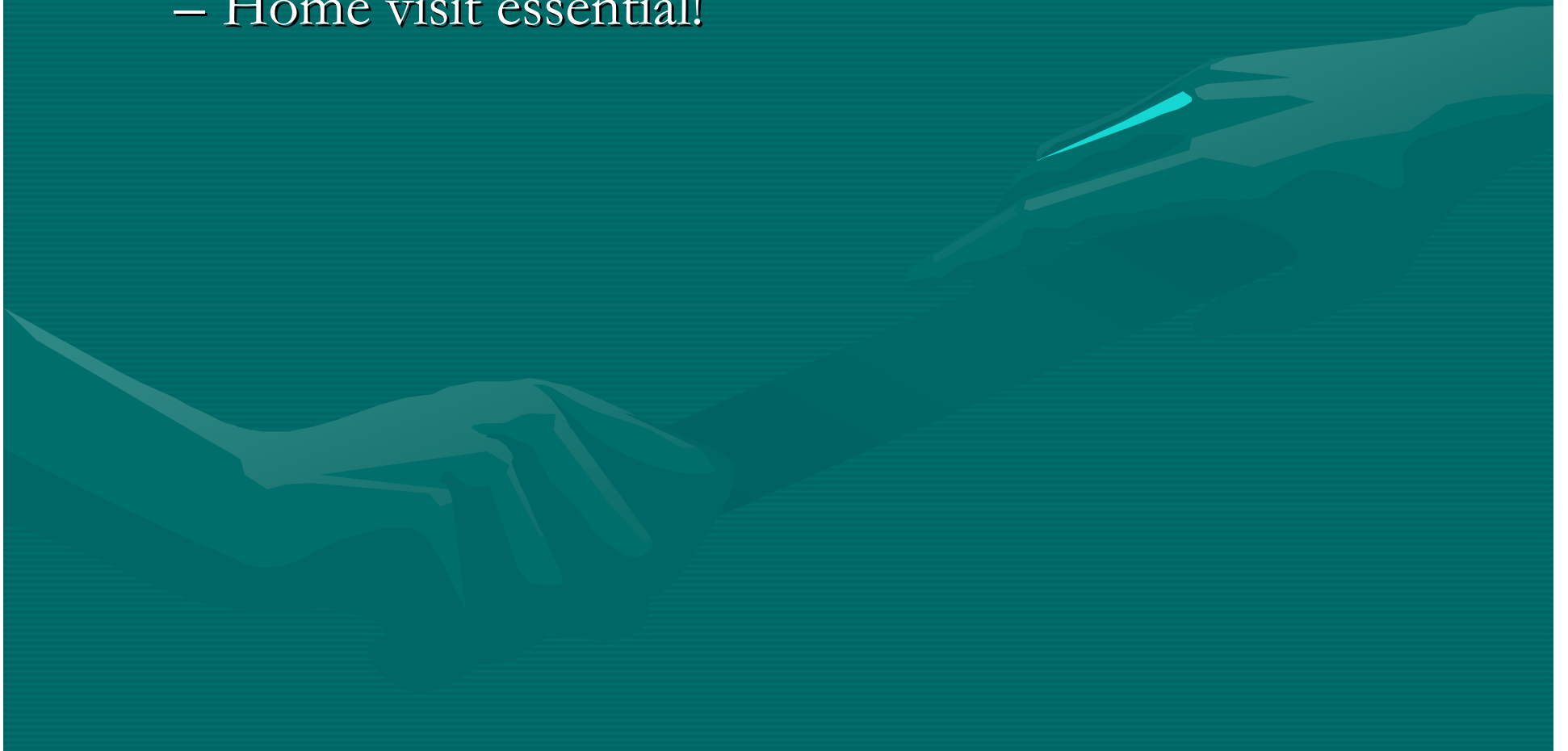
- Duration of exposure indicators
 - Length of time an exposed individual was in contact with the contagious index case
- Host factors
 - Higher risk of disease if infected
 - Immunocompromised
 - Young children
 - Other medical conditions

Host Factors

- Certain contacts have higher risk of TB disease if infected:
 - Immunocompromised
 - HIV infected
 - Young children
- Reinfection possible
(especially immunocompromised)

Contact Investigation Steps

- Contact field investigation
 - Home visit essential!



Contact Investigation Steps

– Purpose of field visit

- Further interview TB case
- Interview and skin test contacts
- Observe contacts for TB symptoms
- Identify health care sources/make referrals
- Identify additional contacts
- Educate contacts about TB/purpose of CI
- Observe environment for potential transmission factors
- Assess contacts' psychosocial needs and other risk factors

Contact Tracing



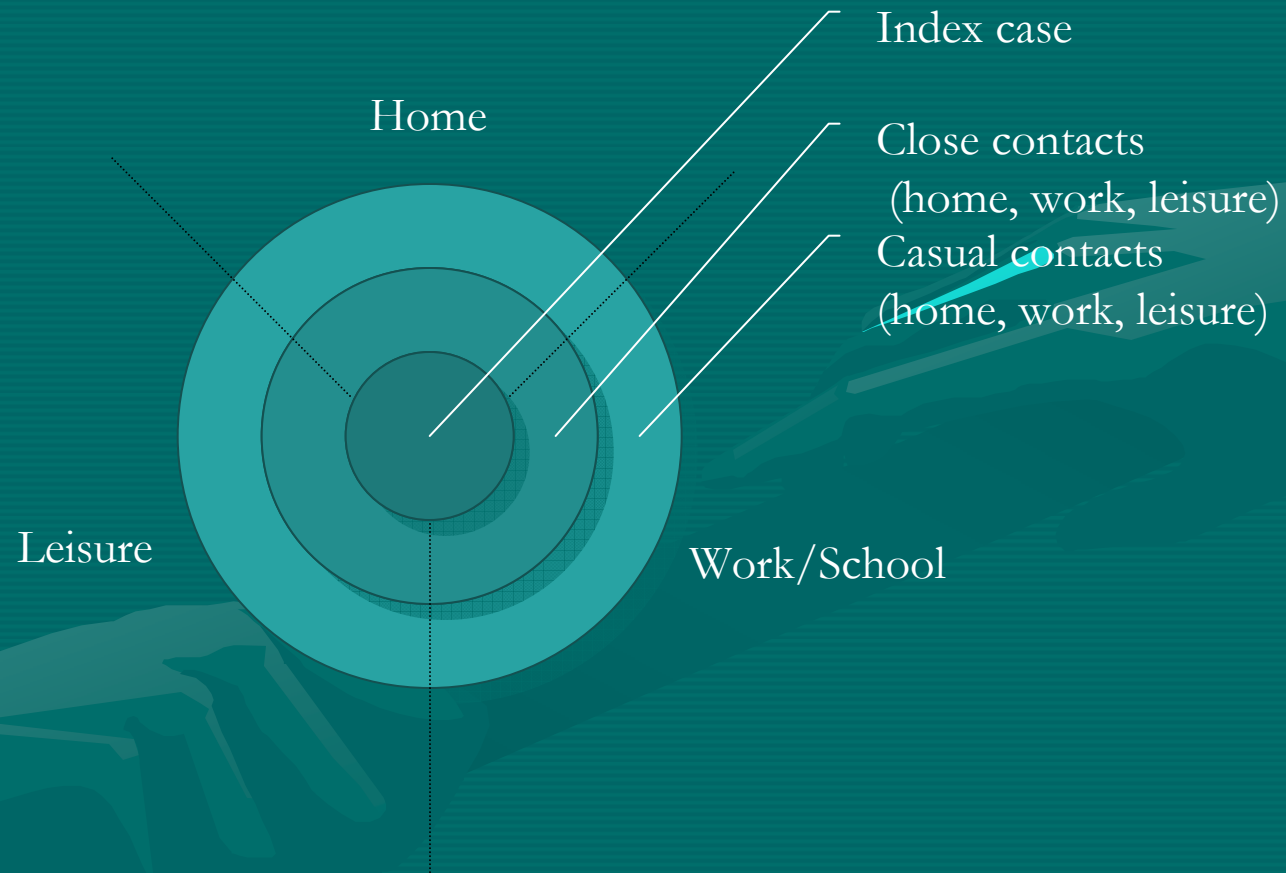
- Skills necessary
 - Assessment
 - Interviewing
 - Counseling
 - Evaluation

Contact Investigation Steps

- Establishing Investigational Priorities
 - Priorities for index case based on characteristics
 - Priorities for contacts
 - Age
 - Immune status
 - Other medical conditions
 - Exposure
 - Contacts who are HIV infected or are young children receive highest priority!!!

Historical Perspective

Concentric Circle Method of Investigation



Contact Investigation Steps

- Medical Evaluation of Close Contacts
 - Mantoux skin testing-read in 48-72 hours
 - Follow-up for:
 - Skin test positives
 - Skin test negatives who are children, adolescents or HIV+
 - Follow-up consists of:
 - Medical evaluation/CXR (sputum specimens as indicated)
 - Treatment for LTBI

Contact Investigation Steps

- Evaluate need to do further testing based on priorities
- Follow-up skin testing after 10-12 weeks



Infection Rate

- CDC estimates that 5% of the U.S. population will test positive to Mantoux test.
 - Test higher priority contacts first
 - Extent of recent transmission
- Factors to consider:
 - Population
 - Foreign born

Contact Investigation Steps

- Re-evaluate need to do further testing based on priorities and extent of recent transmission
- Contact investigation report
 - Summary of the presenting case
 - Number of negative, newly positive, previously positive, and documented conversions
 - Persons with abnormal CXR, suspects, or new cases
 - Number placed on treatment of LTBI

Barriers to Investigations and Management of Contacts

- Identifying the contacts
 - Information that is necessary
 - Encouraging the recall of the case
 - Using the contacts themselves as a resource
 - Using open-ended questions
 - Reviewing information with each visit

Barriers to Investigations and Management of Contacts

- Finding the contacts
 - Available resources to search
 - Time line for searching
- Involving the contacts in the process
 - Using culturally-sensitive material
 - Interpreters
 - Maintaining a non-threatening approach
 - Adapting to their lifestyle and time constraints
 - Identifying their anxieties and fears

Barriers to Investigations and Management of Contacts

- Skin testing procedure
 - Teaching and sharing information
 - Reviewing, reviewing, reviewing
 - The importance of the scheduled return time
- Providers
 - Finances
 - Medical providers
 - Language issues
 - Work schedules/transportation issues

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Additional Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Core Curriculum on Tuberculosis: What the Clinician Should Know. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Atlanta, GA; 2000.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Self-Study Modules on Tuberculosis: Contact Investigations for Tuberculosis. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Atlanta, GA; 1999.
- Performance Guidelines for Contact Investigation: The TB Interview. New Jersey Medical School National Tuberculosis Center.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidelines for the Investigation of Contacts of Persons with Infectious Tuberculosis. *MMWR Recommendations and Reports* December 16, 2005 / 54(RR15); 1-37.

Scenarios

Small Groups

