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# OSH 125: Tuberculosis

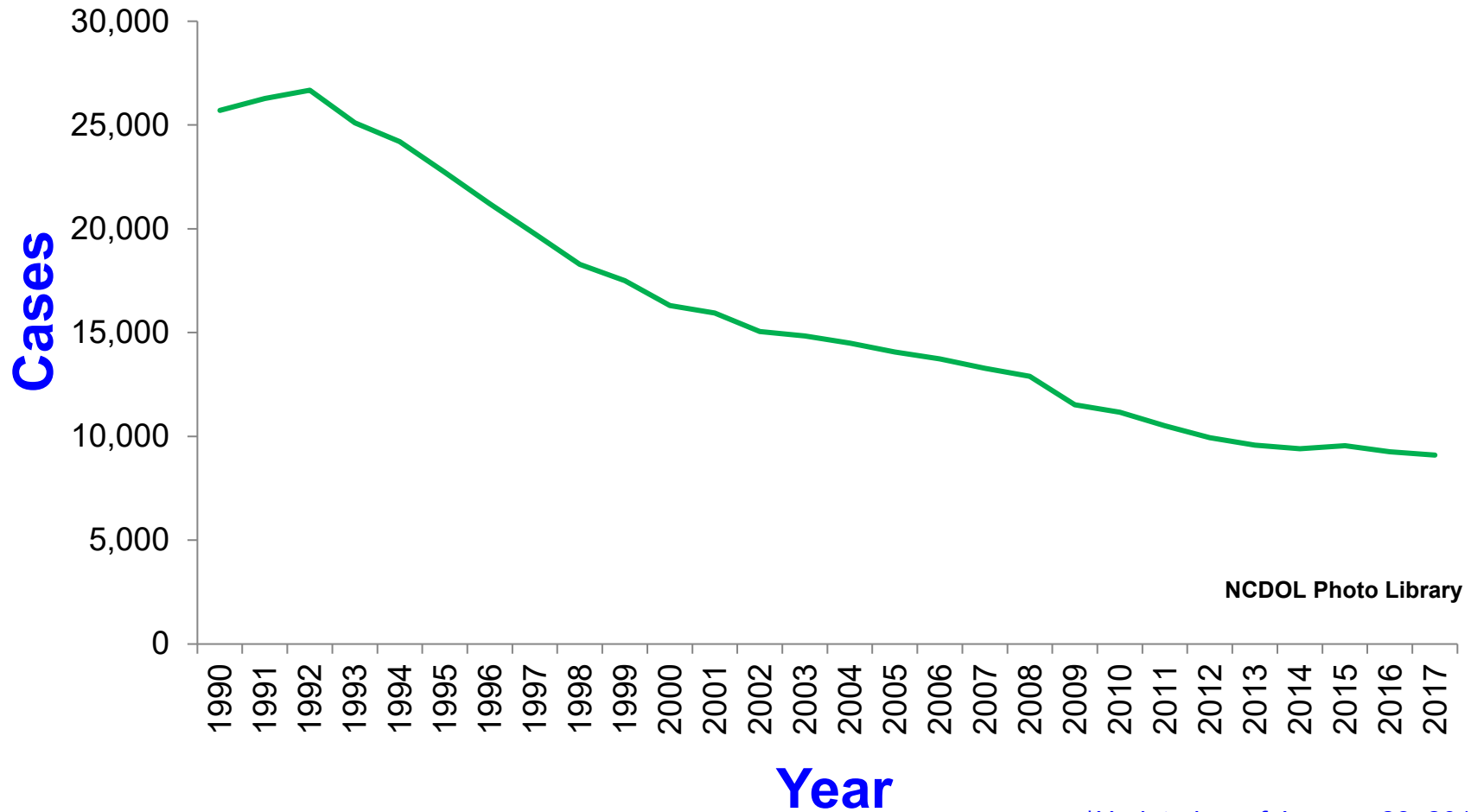
**Presented by:** Cory Dunphy, ETTA

# Objectives

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- Provide a basic understanding regarding the transmission and pathogenesis of *M. tuberculosis*
- Discuss the epidemiology of TB in the US and NC
- Provide an overview regarding the enforcement procedures for occupational exposure to TB

# Reported TB Cases United States, 1990-2017



\*Updated as of January 28, 2019

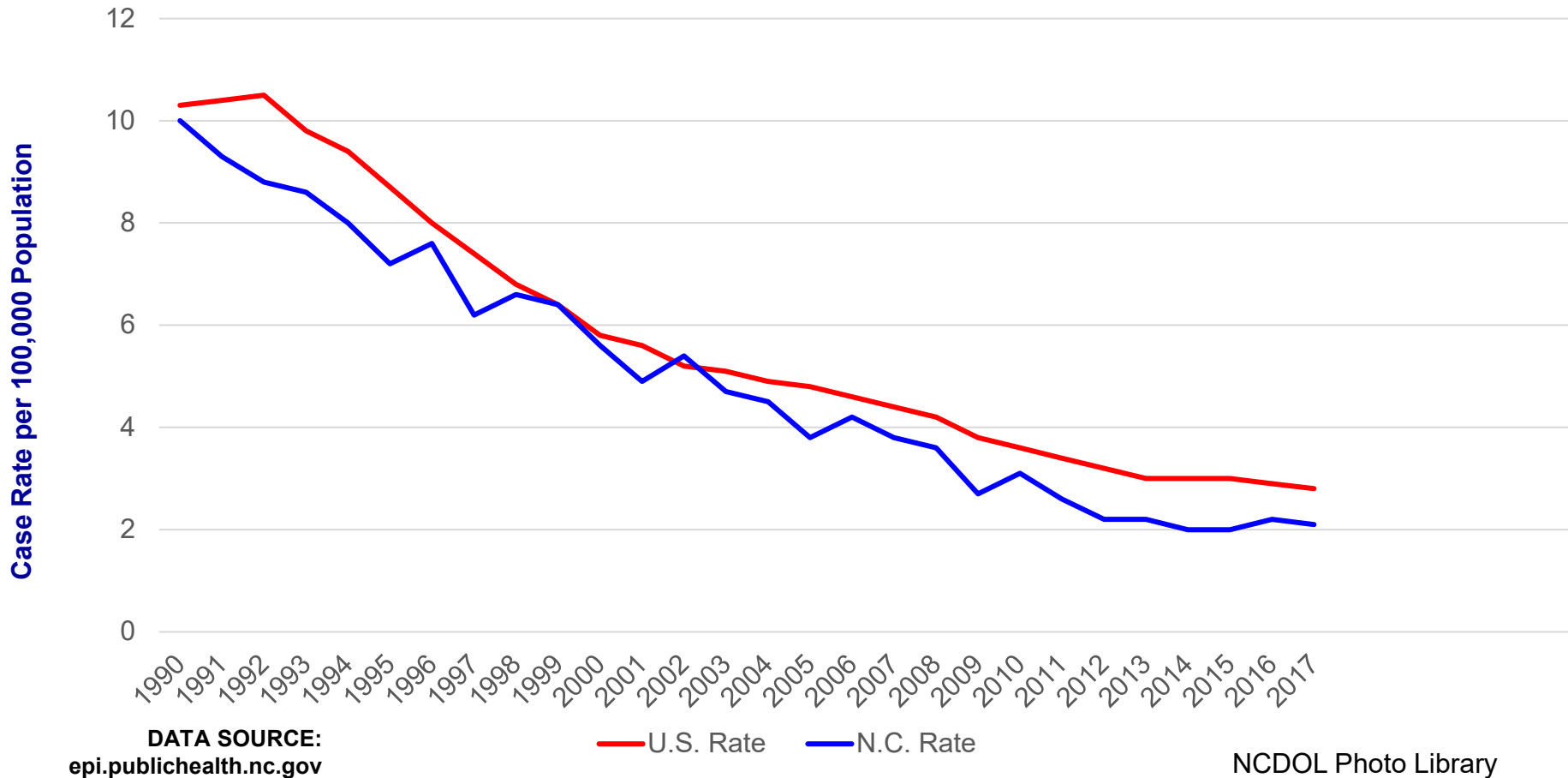
# TB Morbidity - United States, 2009 - 2017

Year	Number	Rate*
2009	11,519	3.8
2010	11,164	3.6
2011	10,509	3.4
2012	9,940	3.2
2013	9,582	3.0
2014	9,412	3.0
2015	9,547	3.0
2016	9,272	2.9
2017	9,105	2.8

\*Cases per 100,000. Updated as of January 28, 2019

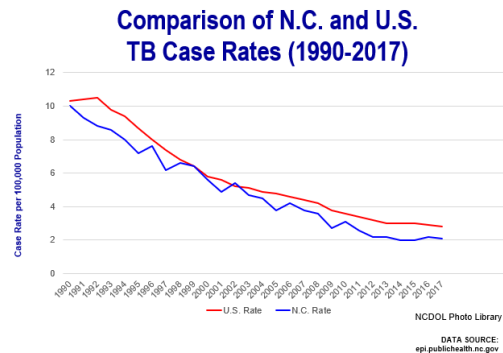
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# Comparison of N.C. and U.S. TB Case Rates (1990-2017)

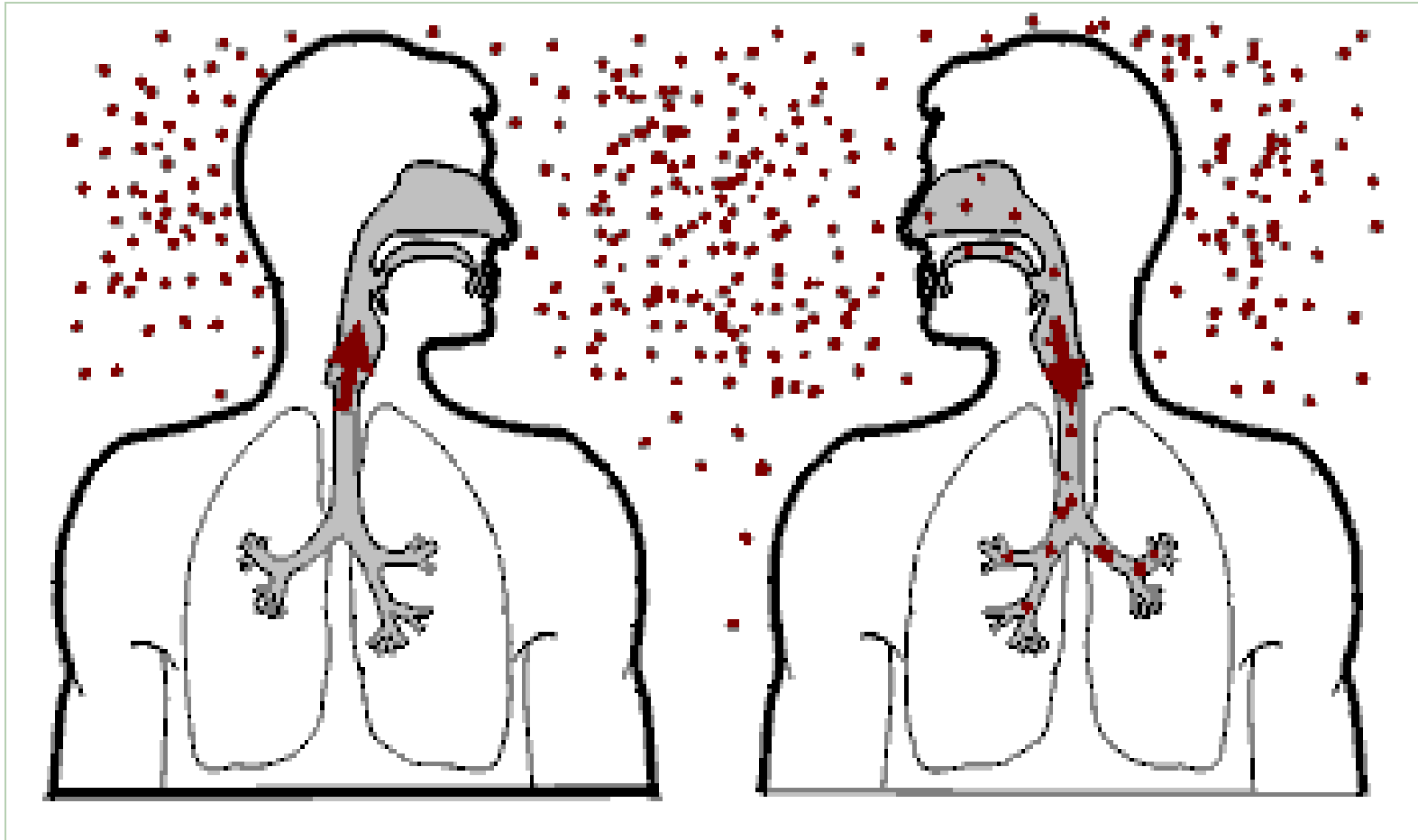


# North Carolina 2017 TB Cases

- North Carolina's Tuberculosis Case Rate decreased from **3.8** to **2.1** from 2007 through 2017
  - *During the same time frame, Tuberculosis Case Rate in the United States decreased from 4.4 to 2.8*



# Transmission and Pathogenesis



# **Transmission of *M. Tuberculosis***

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- Spread by droplet nuclei (1-5  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- Expelled when person with infectious TB coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings
- Close contacts at highest risk of becoming infected
- Transmission occurs from person with infectious TB disease (not latent TB infection)

# Probability of TB Transmission

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- Infectiousness of person with TB
- Environment in which exposure occurred
- Duration of exposure
- Virulence of the organism

# **TB Pathogenesis - Latent TB Infection**

- Once inhaled, bacteria travel to lung alveoli and establish infection
  - Can travel through blood to other body parts
- 2–12 wks after infection, immune response limits activity; infection is detectable
- Some bacteria survive and remain dormant but viable for years (latent TB infection, or LTBI)

# TB Pathogenesis - Latent TB Infection

- Persons with LTBI are:
  - Asymptomatic
  - Not infectious
- LTBI formerly diagnosed only with TST
- Now QFT-G can be used

# **TB Pathogenesis - Active TB Disease**

- LTBI progresses to TB disease in:
  - Small number of persons soon after infection
  - 5%–10% of persons with untreated LTBI sometime during ***lifetime***
  - About 10% of persons with HIV and untreated LTBI ***per year***

# Pathogenesis

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- 10% of infected persons with normal immune systems develop TB at some point in life
- HIV strongest risk factor for development of TB if infected
  - Risk of developing TB disease 7% to 10% each year
- Certain medical conditions increase risk that TB infection will progress to TB disease

# Conditions That Increase Risk...

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## ....of progression to TB disease

- HIV infection
- Substance abuse
- Recent infection
- Chest radiograph findings suggestive of previous TB
- Diabetes mellitus
- Silicosis
- Cancer of the head and neck

(cont...)

# Conditions That Increase Risk...

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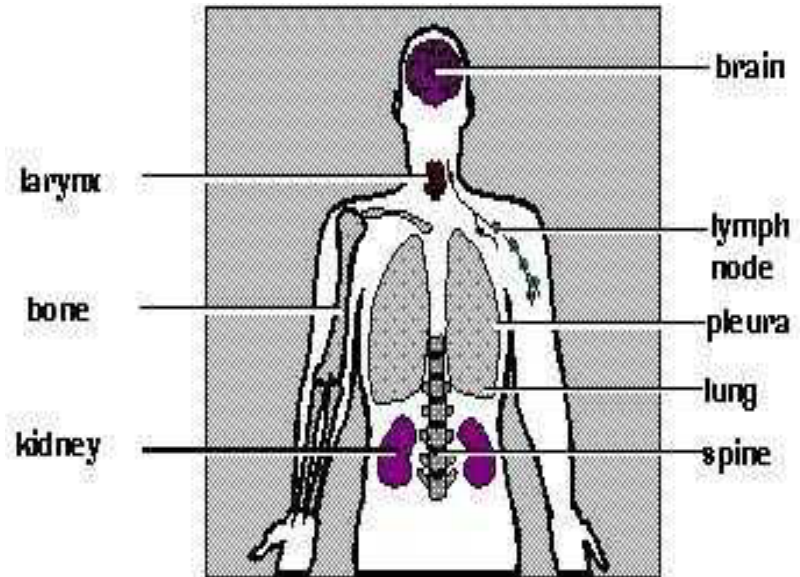
## ....of progression to TB disease

- Hematologic and reticuloendothelial diseases
- End-stage renal disease
- Intestinal bypass or gastrectomy
- Chronic malabsorption syndromes
- Low body weight (10% or more below the ideal)
- Prolonged corticosteroid therapy
- Other immunosuppressive therapy

# Common Sites of TB Disease

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- Lungs
- Pleura
- Central nervous system
- Lymphatic system
- Genitourinary systems
- Bones and joints
- Disseminated (miliary TB)



# Classification System for TB

Class	Type	Description
0	No TB exposure Not infected	No history of exposure Negative reaction to tuberculin skin test
1	TB exposure No evidence of infection	History of exposure Negative reaction to tuberculin skin test
2	TB infection No disease	Positive reaction to tuberculin skin test Negative bacteriologic studies (if done) No clinical, bacteriological, or radiographic evidence of active TB
3	TB, clinically active	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> cultured (if done) Clinical, bacteriological, or radiographic evidence of current disease
4	TB, not clinically active	History of episode(s) of TB <b>or</b> Abnormal but stable radiographic findings Positive reaction to the tuberculin skin test Negative bacteriologic studies (if done) <b>and</b> No clinical or radiographic evidence of current disease
5	TB suspected	Diagnosis is pending

# Drug-Resistant TB

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- Drug-resistant TB transmitted same way as drug-susceptible TB
- Drug resistance is divided into two types:
  - Primary resistance develops in persons initially infected with resistant organisms
  - Secondary resistance (acquired resistance) develops during TB therapy

# First-Line Anti-TB Drugs

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- Isoniazid (INH)
- Rifampin (RIF)
- Pyrazinamide (PZA)
- Ethambutol (EMB) or Streptomycin (SM)\*

# Second-Line Anti-TB Drugs

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- Capreomycin
- Kanamycin
- Amikacin
- Ethionamide
- Para-aminosalicylic acid
- Cycloserine
- Ciprofloxacin\*
- Ofloxacin\*
- Levofloxacin\*
- Clofazamine

# Chronology

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- **May 1992**, Region II OSHA issues “Enforcement Guidelines for Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis” in response to increasing complaints
- **October 8, 1993** - Memorandum from Roger A. Clark, Directorate of Compliance Programs
  - Based on 1990 CDC TB guidelines
  - Utilizes General Duty Clause (GDC) to enforce CDC guidelines
- **February 9, 1996** -- OSHA Instruction CPL 2.106, “Enforcement Procedures and Scheduling for Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis”
  - Based on 1994 CDC revised guidelines

# Chronology

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- **October 17, 1997** -- Proposed standard (NPRM) on occupational exposure to tuberculosis.
- **December 31, 2003** -- OSHA terminates rulemaking and revokes 29 CFR 1910.139 (respiratory protection against tuberculosis)
- **March 2, 2004** – NCDOL adopts revocation of 1910.139, effective 6/30/04.

# Chronology

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- **June 30, 2015** – OSHA introduces CPL 02-02-078: Inspection Procedures for Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis which replaces CPL 02.106.
- **September 9, 2015** – NCDOL adopts CPL 02-02-078, which provides guidance to the CSHO for Tuberculosis inspections.

# OSHA Instruction CPL 02-02-078

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## Inspection Procedures for Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis



<b>DIRECTIVE NUMBER:</b> CPL 02-02-078	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> 06/30/2015
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Enforcement Procedures and Scheduling for Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis	

### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** This Instruction provides general enforcement policies and procedures to be followed when conducting inspections and issuing citations related to occupational exposure to tuberculosis (TB).

**Scope:** This Instruction applies OSHA-wide.

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# Inspection Scheduling and Scope

- Inspections conducted in response to:
  - Valid employee complaints or referrals
  - Related fatality/catastrophes
  - Part of all industrial hygiene inspections in covered facilities
  - Part of all inspections covered by ***OPN 132: SEP for Log Term Care Facilities***

# Covered Facilities

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- Health care facilities
  - Include hospitals where patients w/ confirmed or suspect TB are treated or transported
  - Non-hospital health care settings
    - » Applies only to personnel present during performance of high-hazard procedures
    - » Dental personnel covered only if treat suspect or confirmed active TB patients in hospital or correctional facility

# Covered Facilities

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- Correctional institutions
- Long-term care facilities for the elderly
- Homeless shelters
  - Present unique problems for protection of workers
  - Must establish protocols for rapid early identification followed by immediate transfer if shelter not treating patients
- Drug treatment centers

# Inspection Procedures

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- Has the facility had a suspect or confirmed active case within previous 6 months?
  - ☑ No, TB enforcement procedures do ***not*** apply
  - ☑ Yes, CSHO to proceed with TB portion of inspection

# Inspection Procedures

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- Employer's TB plan will be verified through employee interviews and direct observation where feasible
- CSHO shall use professional judgement to determine what areas shall be inspected
- When smoke-trail visualization tests are used
  - Be prepared to present SDS for smoke



# CSHO Protection

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- Use professional judgement and extreme caution to avoid potential exposure
- Generally should not enter airborne infection isolation rooms (AIIRs)
- If you must enter, comply with facility-imposed PPE
  - With at least a half-mask negative pressure respirator with an N95 filter
  - Wash hands afterwards with soap & water

# Citation Policy

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- Employers who have employees occupationally exposed to TB must comply with the following provisions:
  - NCGS 95-129(1) -- *General Duty Clause*
  - 29 CFR 1910.132 -- *Personal Protective Equipment*
  - 29 CFR 1910.139 -- *Respiratory Protection*
  - 29 CFR 1910.145 -- *Accident Prevention Signs and Tags*
  - 29 CFR 1910.1020 -- *Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records*
  - 29 CFR 1904 -- *Recording & Reporting Occupational Injuries & Illnesses*

# General Duty Clause

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- **NCGS: 95-129(1)**
  - Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees conditions of employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees.



# General Duty Clause Violation

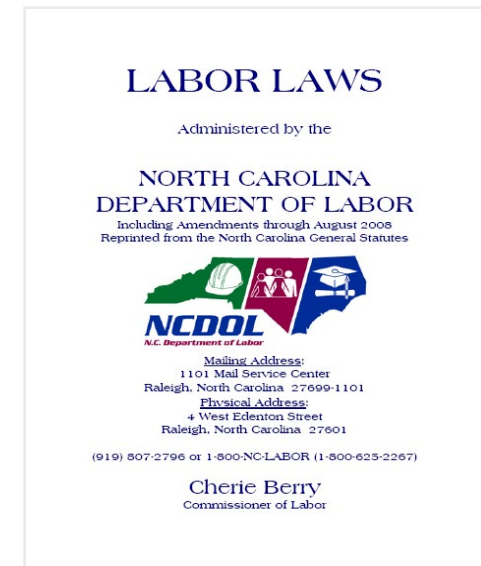
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- **Four Required Elements**

- 1) The employer failed to keep the workplace free of a **hazard to which employees** of that employer **were exposed**;
- 2) The hazard was **recognized** in the industry;
- 3) The hazard was causing or likely to cause **death or serious physical harm**; *and*
- 4) There was a **feasible and useful abatement method** to correct (abate) the hazard.

# Invoking the General Duty Clause

- The basis of a **General Duty Clause** violation is exposure to the hazard, not the absence of a particular abatement method.



# Recognizing Exposure to a Serious Hazard

- Employers with employees working in one of the high risk occupational settings,
- When employees not provided with appropriate protection, ***and***
- Who have occupational exposure to TB

# Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis

- Exposure to exhaled air of an individual with suspected or confirmed pulmonary TB disease, ***or***
- Employee exposure without appropriate protection to a high hazard procedure performed on individual with suspected or confirmed infectious TB disease and which has potential to generate infectious airborne droplet nuclei.

# High Hazard Procedures

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- Aerosolized medication treatment
- Bronchoscopy
- Sputum induction
- Endotracheal intubation and suctioning procedures
- Emergency dental procedures
- Endoscopic procedures
- Autopsies conducted in hospitals

# Feasible and Useful Abatement Methods

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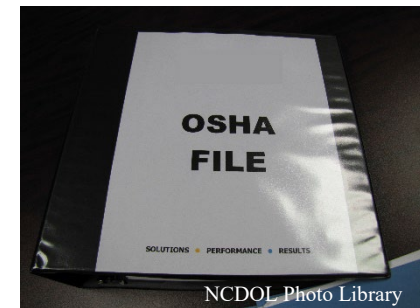
- Early identification of patient/client
  - Employer must implement a protocol for early identification of individuals with active TB
  - Program must identify and characterize each area within the facility
  - Characteristics of effective TB IC program (see Table 3, CDC Guidelines)



# Inspection Procedures

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- CSHOs should evaluate the following
  - TB Infection Control Program
  - TB Risk Assessment for incoming patients
  - Medical Surveillance of Employees
    - » Initial testing
    - » Periodic evaluations
  - Case Management for infected employees
  - Education and Training
  - Engineering Controls



# Respiratory Protection

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1910.134(a)(2)

- ❑ “Respirators shall be provided by the employer when such equipment is necessary to protect the health of the employee.
- ❑ The employer shall provide the respirators which are applicable and suitable for the purpose intended.
- ❑ The employer shall be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a respiratory protection program which shall include the requirements outlined in paragraph (c) of this section.”

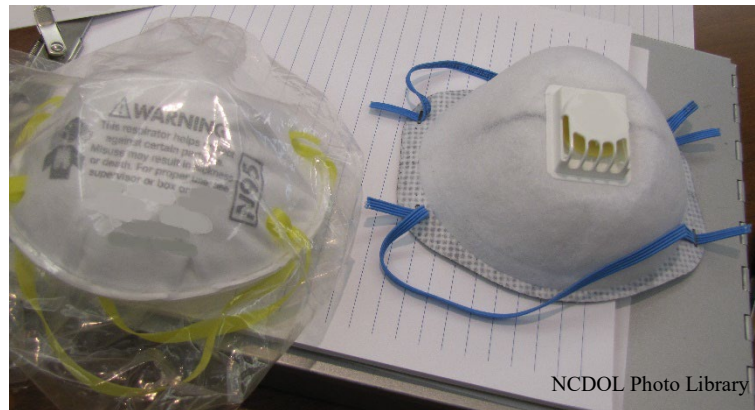
# Respiratory Protection

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- HEPA respirators or respirators certified under 42 CFR Part 84 Subpart K are required:
  - When workers enter rooms housing individuals with suspected or confirmed infectious TB
  - When workers present during performance of high hazard procedures on individuals with suspected or confirmed infectious TB
  - When emergency-medical-response personnel or others transport, in a closed a vehicle, an individual with suspected or confirmed infectious TB

# Respirator Program Requirements 1910.134(c)

- Written operating procedures
- Proper selection
- Training and fitting
- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Storage
- Inspection and maintenance
- Work area surveillance
- Inspection/evaluation of program
- Approved respirators



# Employee Medical/Exposure Records 1910.1020

- Employee access to records
  - A record concerning employee exposure to TB is an employee exposure record.
  - A record of TB skin test results and medical evaluations and treatment are employee medical records.

# Accident Prevention Signs and Tags 1910.145(f)(8)

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- A warning shall be posted outside the respiratory isolation or treatment room or a message referring one to the nursing station for instruction may be posted.

# Accident Prevention Signs and Tags 1910.145(f)(4)

- A signal word/phrase (“STOP”, “HALT”, “NO ADMITTANCE”), **or**
- Biohazard symbol *and* major message (“RESPIRATORY ISOLATION” or “AFB ISOLATION”) along with necessary precautions.
- Biological hazard tags are also required on air transport components (e.g., fans, ducts, filters) that transport contaminated air.





# Outreach and Assistance

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- **NC Department of Labor**

1-800-NCLABOR

<http://www.labor.nc.gov>

- **Consultative Services**

1-800-NCLABOR or (919) 707-7846

- **Education, Training & Technical Assistance**

1-800-NCLABOR or (919) 707-7874

- **NIOSH**

1-800-232-4636

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html>

# Summary

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- Provided a basic understanding regarding the transmission and pathogenesis of *M. tuberculosis*
- Discussed the epidemiology of TB in the US and NC
- Provided an overview regarding the enforcement procedures for occupational exposure to TB

# Thank You For Attending!

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## Final Questions?

**1-800-NC-LABOR**

*(1-800-625-2267)*

**[www.nclabor.com](http://www.nclabor.com)**