

October 7, 1997

David M. DeBiasi, R.N.  
Portland Public Schools  
Benson High School  
546 Northeast 12th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232

Mr. DeBiasi:

This is in response to your letter requesting clarifications on Oregon OSHA's position regarding tuberculosis (TB) skin testing for students that are sent to health care facilities.

The federal OSHA guidelines for TB testing require that initial exams must be offered to all new employees before an exposure occurs if their place of employment is one that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have indicated have a greater incidence of tuberculosis infections than in the general population. Oregon OSHA follows the federal OSHA guidelines.

Students workers who are covered by workers compensation insurance would fall within the scope of these guidelines and would need to be offered the TB skin tests if they are sent to work environments that the CDC has targeted as explained above.

We hope this answers your question regarding this matter. If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact David McLaughlin at (503) 947-7457.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster, Manager  
Standards and Technical Resources Section  
Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division

S:\SHARE\TEC\_TEMP\LTRSINTE\PDXTB.WPD