

Chapter H 46

TUBERCULOSIS

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H 46.01 Tuberculosis—patient

(1) Placard—None

(2) Restrictions

- (a) All individuals afflicted with tuberculosis of the lungs in the communicable form or reasonably suspected of being so afflicted shall exercise all reasonable precautions so as to prevent the infection of others with whom they may come in contact. The principal reasonable precautions are declared to be:
1. Depositing sputum in a special receptacle and disposing of material by burning or thorough disinfecting.
 2. Preventing spraying when coughing by coughing into a container or paper napkin held to the mouth or nose.
 3. Using individual eating utensils sterilized by boiling after each use.
 4. Using separate towels
 5. Sleeping alone
 6. Avoiding coming in contact with other individuals on all possible occasions.
 7. Refraining from handling liquids or foodstuffs to be consumed by others or the utensils connected with such handling.
- (b) Any individual afflicted with tuberculosis of the lungs in the communicable form, diagnosed as such by a licensed physician or as shown by X-ray or the presence of tubercle bacilli in the sputum, in order to protect others from becoming infected, may be isolated on his premises by the local board of health or the health officer on the direction of the state board of health or state health officer, or by the full-time medical health officer of any city or county with a population of 250,000 or more within his jurisdiction.
- (c) A placard shall be posted in a conspicuous position on the premises, with the words "communicable disease" in letters not less than two inches high.
- (d) The local board of health or health officer may employ as many persons as are necessary to execute its orders and properly guard any patient in isolation if isolation is violated or intent to violate isolation is manifested. Such persons shall be sworn in as guards, shall have police powers, and may use all necessary means to enforce the state laws for the prevention and control of communicable diseases, or for the enforcement of these rules and regulations.

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- (e) The expense of maintaining isolation including examinations and tests to determine the presence or communicability of the disease, and the enforcement of isolation on the premises shall be paid by the city, incorporated village or town upon order of the local board of health. The expenses for necessary nurses, medical attention, food and other articles needed for the comfort of the afflicted person shall be charged against him or whoever is liable for his support. Indigent cases shall be cared for at public expense.
 - (f) Any individual who has been isolated on the premises under provision of these rules shall be released from such isolation by the local board of health or health officer on direction of the state board of health or state health officer or by the full-time medical health officer of any city or county with a population of 250,000 or more within his jurisdiction when in the opinion of said health officer the isolation is no longer necessary to protect others from becoming infected.
 - (g) No person with tuberculosis of the lung or other part of the respiratory tract in the communicable form, or reasonably believed to be suffering from such disease, shall be permitted to attend or frequent any school except open-air schools especially equipped for the purpose until the health officer of the municipality where the school is situated furnishes a written certificate stating that the individual is free from a communicable form of tuberculosis. Such certificate shall only be issued after thorough examination by a licensed physician in a manner satisfactory to the state board of health.
 - (h) If an individual afflicted with tuberculosis in a communicable form shall leave the sanatorium against the advice of the medical superintendent or medical supervisor, such an individual shall be reported to the local board of health and may be isolated upon his premises as provided in Section (b) if in the opinion of the state board of health or the state health officer or of the full-time medical health officer of cities or counties with a population of 250,000 or more, agree that isolation is necessary in order to protect others from becoming infected.
 - (i) The local health officer or an individual delegated by him shall visit all individuals isolated for tuberculosis at least once every 15 days to ascertain that the isolation is being maintained and to ascertain whether to make recommendations for release from isolation or for admission to a tuberculosis sanatorium.
 - (j) Any individual isolated for tuberculosis may obtain release from such isolation by being admitted to a tuberculosis sanatorium.
 - (k) Individuals afflicted with tuberculosis in any form and diagnosed as such by a competent physician shall exercise every care and precaution for the protection of others.

H 46.02 Tuberculosis—Contacts: No restrictions

H 46.03 Tuberculosis cases—environment: disinfection. All handkerchiefs, towels, cloths, eating utensils and other contaminated material used by a person with tuberculosis shall receive appropriate disinfection before coming in contact with others. Upon the death or removal of a person with tuberculosis the health officer shall require disinfection of the premises occupied by the patient by a thorough washing of the woodwork by soap and water or a disinfectant, boiling of the dishes and contaminated fabrics, and a thorough sunning of material which cannot be subjected to other disinfection.

(*Note:* It is the intent of these rules and regulations to give reasonable protection to the public from exposure to an individual afflicted with pulmonary tuberculosis in the communicable form.)

ADMISSION OF PATIENTS TO STATE TUBERCULOSIS CAMP

H 46.60 Tuberculosis camp. The state tuberculosis camp located at Lake Tomahawk, Wisconsin, is for the care of persons threatened with or recovering from tuberculosis.

H 46.61 Admissions to be approved. Admissions to the camp must be approved by the state health officer or any physician employed by the board and designated by him for the purpose.

H 46.62 Who shall be admitted. Male or female persons may be admitted to the camp, who are convalescing from or threatened with clinical tuberculosis. Their disease must meet the following requirements constituting inactivity: Lesions as observed in serial roentgenograms must be stable except for extremely slow shrinkage, and there must be no roentgenologic evidence of cavity. Symptoms of tuberculous origin must be absent. Sputum, if any, must be found negative for tubercle bacilli repeatedly, not only by concentration and microscopic examination, but also by culture or animal inoculation. When a patient is not raising sputum or when there is any question concerning the authenticity or adequacy of expectorated sputum specimens, the fasting gastric contents or pulmonary secretions which have been aspirated from the tracheobronchial tree should be examined by culture or animal inoculation. The patient must have been ambulatory for at least two hours for a period of two months. Preference will be given to patients between 16-60 years of age.

H 46.63 Patients to be rehabilitated. Patients must be suitable for rehabilitation, which includes the absence of complications rendering them unfit for camp regimen. Patients who develop complications which cannot be properly treated at or near the camp or which render them unsuitable for the camp may be discharged or given a leave of absence for the purpose of procuring treatment.

H 46.64 Discharge of patients. Patients shall be discharged when they are rehabilitated and may be discharged for disciplinary reasons unless they have a positive sputum or gastric culture.

H 46.65 Active tuberculosis. Patients whose tuberculosis is found or suspected to be active shall be returned to a sanatorium or returned to the court which admitted them.

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H 46.66 Admission of nonresidents. The camp is intended for the rehabilitation of Wisconsin residents, but since it is most economical to make the fullest possible use of the camp's facilities, the state health officer is authorized to admit nonresidents when there are sufficient vacant beds available. He shall arrange that payment of the cost of maintenance of any such patient is adequately guaranteed by some responsible person or agency as well as requiring such person or agency to arrange transportation of the patient to and from the camp. Any such patient may be discharged pursuant to rules H 46.63, 46.64 and 46.65, and shall be discharged at any time when the facilities of the camp may be needed for the care of Wisconsin residents. The state health officer shall see that there is at all times a sufficient reserve of vacant beds to insure the immediate admission, without waiting, of any Wisconsin resident eligible for the camp, and shall discharge nonresident patients when necessary to maintain such reserve of beds.