



**Northwestern
Health Unit**

www.nwhu.on.ca

March 19, 2018

Health Advisory: Tuberculosis

The Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) has been informed of a cluster of individuals with active Tuberculosis (TB) who have stayed at shelters in Thunder Bay. In your clinical practice, if seeing homeless/under-housed patients with new onset cough, recent weight loss, and/or blood in sputum, consider testing for TB.

If TB is suspected:

- Use airborne precautions including a negative pressure room if available. If there is no negative pressure room, a patient should use a surgical mask. Health care providers should wear N95 masks, particularly if the patient has been unmasked in the room and if aerosol-producing procedures are performed (such as intubation or inducing sputum sample).
- Notify the NWHU if TB is suspected or diagnosed. TB is a reportable disease.

Please note that TB medication is publicly funded; patients do not have to pay for medication, it will be provided for free by the NWHU.

If you have any questions, please contact the NWHU.

Contact:

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