



April 4, 2008

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Chair,
Association of State Refugee
Health Coordinators
Refugee Health Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Health
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P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Carrie Bridges
Co-Chair
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Refugee Health Coordinator
Rhode Island Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill, Room 407
Providence, RI 02908

Carol Pozsik
Executive Director
National Tuberculosis Controllers
Association
2452 Spring Road, SE
Smyrna, GA 30080

Dear Ms. O'Fallon, Ms. Bridges, and Ms. Pozsik:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the release of the new Tuberculosis (TB) Component of the Technical Instructions for the Medical Examination of Aliens in the United States. **These TB Technical Instructions are used by civil surgeons.** They will replace the TB section of the June 1991 Technical Instructions.

The new civil surgeon TB Technical Instructions are effective May 1, 2008.

The following documents can be found on our website at
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/civil.htm>:

- The new civil surgeon TB Technical Instructions.
- A memo to civil surgeons concerning the new TB Technical Instructions
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the new TB Technical Instructions.

The FAQs should be helpful to Refugee Health Coordinators and TB Controllers as well as civil surgeons and immigration officers.

The highlights of the major changes in this release of the TB Technical Instructions are listed on pages 1-2 of the TB Technical Instructions and in the civil surgeon memo.

The website noted above also contains links to the 1991 Technical Instructions for the non-TB portions of the medical examination (other infectious diseases, mental health conditions, etc.) and to the Vaccination Technical Instructions. The civil surgeon should continue to follow these other Technical Instructions for the non-TB portions of the examination.

Updates to all Technical Instructions are posted at the above site.

The new TB Technical Instructions are to be used in conjunction with the new I-693 form which is being released concurrently by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The new I-693 form can be identified by the list of seven TB classifications found at the bottom of its first page. Please note that the vaccination portion of the new I-693 form is no longer a supplement, but is included within the main body of the form.

The I-693 form is available on the USCIS website; **the I-693 form is not distributed by CDC/DGMQ.**

Please inform TB Controllers and Refugee Health Coordinators about the new civil surgeon TB Technical Instructions.

Thank you for your attention and assistance.

Sincerely,



FOR Luis Ortega, MD, MPH
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