



**Indiana
Department
of
Health**

TB Talk

Fourth Quarter 2023

Staffing Update

Christina Samuels joined the TB Prevention & Care Program in October 2023, in the newly created position of TB nurse lead.

Christina is originally from Lincoln, Nebraska. She and her husband moved to Indiana in 2008. Prior to coming to IDOH, she was a bedside nurse and out-patient nurse coordinator working in Advanced Heart Failure with Left Ventricular Assist Device patients and Cardiac Transplant coordination.

She came to the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) in 2020, as a long-term care nurse surveyor and later transitioned to the role of long-term care rules and regulations liaison with the IDOH Consumer Services & Health Care Regulation commission.



Outside of IDOH, she and her husband love going to concerts and spending time with friends and family. She has a nine-pound cat named Pete who thinks he is a 100-pound dog.

Christina can be reached at csamuels@health.in.gov. An updated document with team contact information can be located [on the website](#).

Education Activities

[APHL Understanding TB Laboratory Testing for Public Health Nurses](#)

Available on demand

[GTBI TB 101 Series](#)

Recordings available on demand

[TB 101 for Health Care Workers](#)

Available on demand

News

Year-End Updates

Due in part to the implementation of changes to the NBS TB investigation module this year, there has been a temporary change in the way IDOH is following up on missing data and how TB disease case data will be reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of year-end reporting. Thank you for your patience with this change. A return to the standard reporting process is anticipated for next year-end.

Please prioritize completing missing or unknown variables for TB disease cases as this data is due to CDC at the end of January. Contact investigation data will need to be completed during Q1 2024 for 2023 and 2022 TB cases for reporting to CDC.

Please reach out to the [epidemiologists or the nursing team](#) with any questions.

TB Technical Instructions and Class B Notifications

Updates to the Panel Physician and Civil Surgeon TB Technical Instructions are anticipated to be released in January 2024, with an effective date of Oct. 1, 2024. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

If you have received a Class B Notification form recently, you may notice that the form was slightly revised by CDC earlier this quarter. If you have any questions about these revisions, please reach out to a member of the TB Program.

During 2024, the TB Program plans to work on a Class B module for NBS that will aid in improving the Class B reporting process. In addition, training will be developed about this new module and the Class B process in general. We also anticipate adding a Class B reference section to the website.

Infection Preventionist Resources

An Infection Preventionist [resource section](#) has been added to the website to assist in compiling resources related to TB that may be helpful to this audience. Please share with your IP contacts.

TB LHD Needs Assessment

Thank you! A 97 percent response rate was achieved for this year's TB local health department (LHD) needs assessment. The TB program greatly appreciates your feedback.

A great need for phlebotomy training was noted with 54 jurisdictions requesting this type of training. The TB program is partnering with Health Care and Education Training (HCET) to hold several phlebotomy training sessions for LHDs during the first half of 2024.

The IDOH Emergency Preparedness division is planning to offer phlebotomy training during the next year as well. [See the website](#) for additional information and to request training.

The needs assessment produced a number of suggested topics for the annual World TB Day Summit and other training opportunities.

Analysis of the data continues and we hope to address more of the needs identified in the upcoming year.

Fall Indiana APIC Conference

The Indiana Association for Professionals in Infection Control held their fall conference in early November in Greenwood. The TB program had a resource table and shared a poster, [Tuberculosis and Infection Prevention Resources](#), at this event. It was a great opportunity to connect with a number of infection preventionists and share TB-related resources.

Local Health Department Symposium

In October, the IDOH LHD Outreach division hosted the Public Health Leadership Symposium for health officers and LHD administrators. Kelly White, TB Program Director, presented *What a LHD Administrator Should Know About TB*. Slides from the presentation are located [on the website](#).

IDOH Long-term Care Conference

The IDOH Long-Term Care (LTC) division held its annual conference in October. This was the first year that the TB Program has a resource table at the event. A new resource was created for this event [Tuberculosis Screening & Testing of Healthcare Personnel](#) in the long-term care setting that was shared along with LTC's [Tuberculosis Assessment & Testing of Long-term Care Residents](#). The table saw a significant amount of traffic and there are plans to attend this event again in the future.



N-95s and FIT Testing

Airborne precautions are used in addition to standard precautions to prevent disease transmission from individuals known or suspected of having infectious TB disease.

All health care personnel should wear a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)-certified, **fit-tested**, N95 respirator or higher before entering an area of shared air space and wear at all times while in the area of shared space.

The respirator can be removed just after exiting the area. An N95 respirator can be discarded into the regular trash.

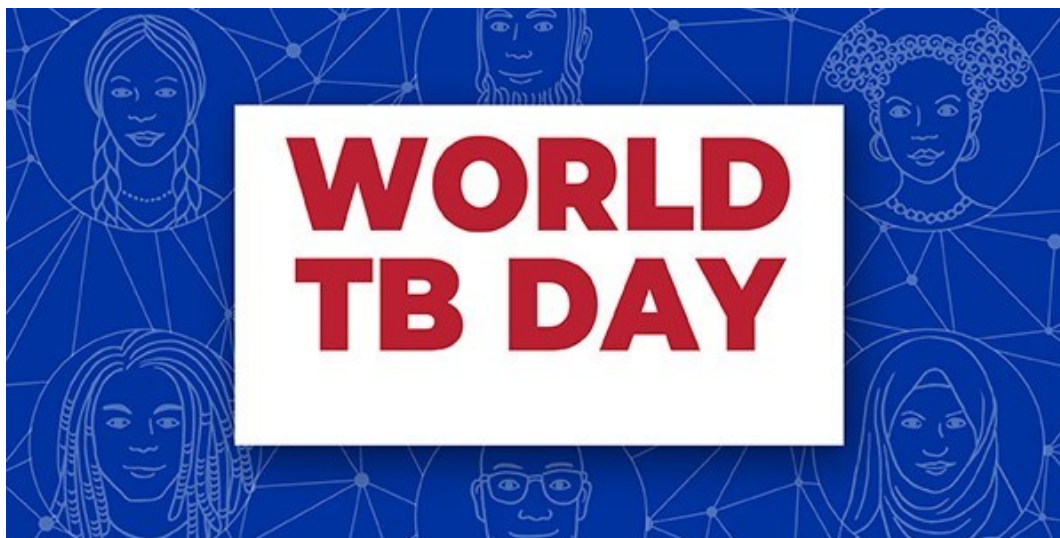


HIPAA Compliance and vDOT/eDOT

Video and electronic directly-observed therapy (vDOT/eDOT) continues to grow in usage. [This article](#) walks through HIPAA considerations when selecting a platform to use for vDOT/eDOT. Additional resources that may be helpful include:

- [CDC's Implementing an eDOT Program Toolkit](#)
- [Recommendations for the Use of DOT during TB Treatment—MMWR Article, March 2023](#)
- [CDC's Supplemental Information for vDOT Recommendations](#)

World TB Day



Indiana World TB Day Summit

Save the Date

March 20, 2024

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET

Garrison Conference Center

6002 N. Post Road

Indianapolis, IN 46216

Registration to open in January/February 2024

Questions: tbprogram@health.in.gov

Excellence in TB Prevention and Care Award

Do you know someone who works in TB prevention and care who:

- Develops and builds relationships of respect and trust to create an atmosphere conducive to positive patient outcomes
- Exhibits excellent community outreach and education to coordinate TB care
- Displays passion in the field of TB prevention and care, dedicating themselves to quality

- Goes above and beyond job duties in providing coordinated care of those affected by TB



TB Prevention and Care
Program

Consider [nominating them](#) for the IDOH Excellence in TB Prevention and Care award to be given at the IDOH World TB Day Summit.

See a list of past winners [on the website](#).