

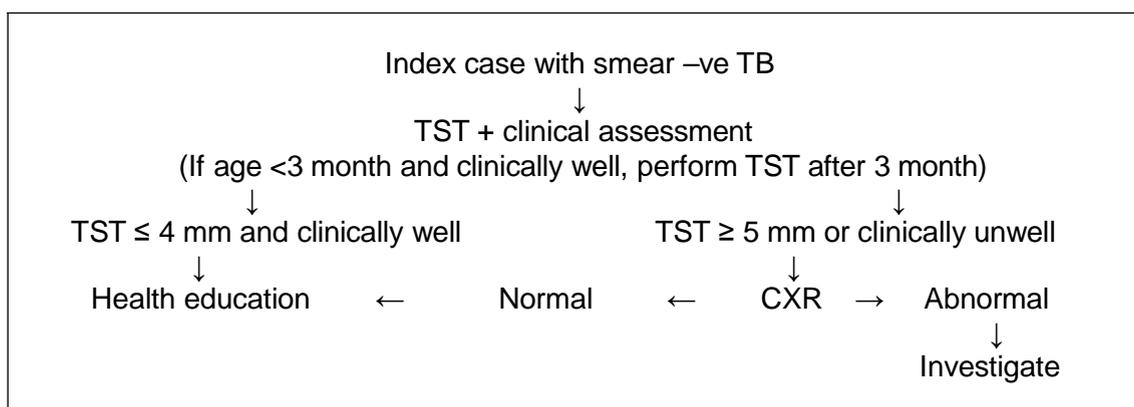
Scheme for Investigation of Close Contacts (Household) in the
Tuberculosis & Chest Service, Department of Health

(Last updated Jul 2018)

Scenario	Strategy
Index case is smear-negative and the close contact < 5 years old	Tuberculin skin test, with chest X-ray if the test reads 5 mm or more.
Index case is smear-negative and the close contact aged 5 years or more	Chest X-ray
Index case is smear-positive and the close contact < 65 years old*	Chest X-ray and tuberculin skin test, with treatment of latent TB infection if appropriate.
Index case is smear-positive and the close contact aged 65 years or more	Chest X-ray.

***For close contacts with risk factors for adverse effects from latent TB infection treatment, (e.g. alcoholic, underlying chronic liver disease, etc), the decision to screen should be made on a case-by-case basis especially for the aged 35-64 group.**

Flow chart for contact investigation of close contacts aged below 5 with smear negative index case *



* If the index case has smear-negative TB and the close contact case is aged below five, the contact case is first evaluated by tuberculin skin test alongside clinical assessment. If the contact case is aged below 3 months and clinically well, the tuberculin test can be postponed until the contact case is 3 months old. If the contact case is clinically well and the tuberculin skin test result is 4 mm or less, health education is all that is required. If the contact case is clinically unwell or the tuberculin skin test result is 5 mm or more, chest X-ray is taken. If chest X-ray is normal, only health education is required. Otherwise, further investigation may be considered.