



Department of Health

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New York State Tissue Resources Program

Policy – Tuberculosis testing of donors of human breast milk
Effective date – 08/12/2020
Valid until – Regulatory or policy change supersedes this policy

Donors of human milk need not be tested for tuberculosis within one month prior to the first donation.

10 NYCRR Part 52-9.5(c) requires that donors of human milk be tested and found negative for tuberculosis within one month prior to the first donation. Organizations such as the World Health Organization and the American Academy of Pediatrics consider breast milk to be safe when expressed by mothers with active tuberculosis. The Department's breastfeeding policy notes that there is "no concern about [tuberculosis] passing through milk." This requirement for testing may be overly burdensome and may negatively impact the availability of human donor milk. As such, the Department will no longer enforce this requirement.

In lieu of testing a donor for tuberculosis, the Department recommends the human milk bank screen the donor for active tuberculosis or skin lesions during the required physical examination and health history interview, per 10 NYCRR Part 52-9.5(a)(3).