

## **Status Update on New TB Screening Rules**

Des Moines, Iowa (June 12, 2013) – The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) adopted new Tuberculosis (TB) Screening rules [481 IAC 59] that outline requirements and procedures to conduct TB screenings for health care workers, as well as residents of health care facilities. The chapter details the screening process to be used, the risk classifications, and who may conduct TB screenings. The new chapter was substantially written by the Department of Public Health, and is designed to bring Iowa into compliance with TB screening recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Chapter 481—59 became effective on March 26, 2013, following a 70-day delay by the Legislature’s Administrative Rules Review Committee (ARRC). During the delay, the Department worked with health care providers, the Public Health Department, and other stakeholders to clarify the circumstances under which volunteers must be tested or screened for TB. This clarification of the definition of “health care worker” was filed Emergency with Notice, and became effective on March 26, 2013, the same day as the rest of Chapter 59.

DIA also recently amended Iowa Administrative Code chapters 481—57, “Residential Care Facilities”; 481—58, “Nursing Facilities”; 481—62, “Residential Care Facilities for Persons with Mental Illness”; 481—63, “Residential Care Facilities for the Intellectually Disabled”; and 481—65, “Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Mental Illness”. Amendments to these chapters, which became effective on May 8, 2013, made technical changes corresponding to the adoption of the TB screening rules.