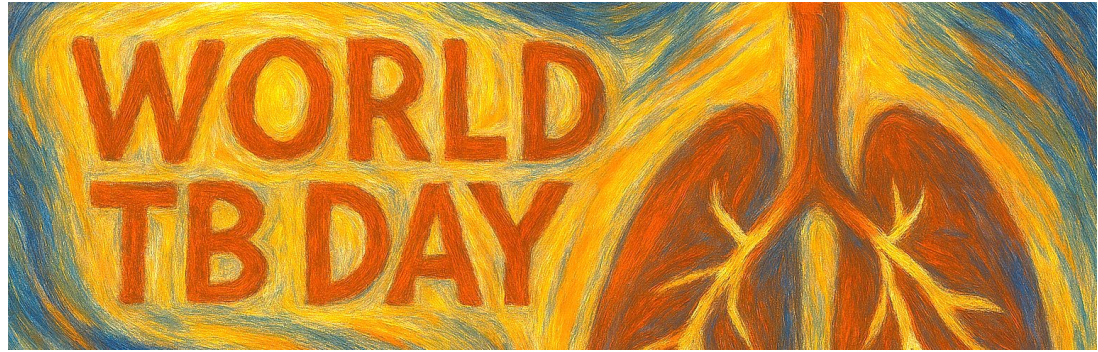




TB Times

Mayo Clinic Center for Tuberculosis (MCCT)



UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

Select links for details

[Artificial Intelligence in TB](#)
Mar 26
Webinar

[TB Program Management Intensive](#)
April 15-16
KS City, KS

[Refer or Treat?](#)
May 14
Civil Surgeons
Webinar

[TB Contact Investigation Interviewing](#)
May 19-20
Sioux Falls, SD

[NTC 2026](#)
June 8-12
Palm Springs, CA

[TB Contact Investigation Fundamentals](#)
June 2
Virtual Course

[TB Clinical Intensive 2026](#)
Oct 6-8
Rochester, MN

World TB Day – March 24, 2026: Recognizing the Dedication

World TB Day marks the moment in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, a breakthrough that transformed how TB is diagnosed, treated, and prevented.

This day highlights both the progress achieved and the ongoing work needed to address TB. It is also an opportunity to recognize the many professionals who contribute to TB prevention and care across our region.

We extend our appreciation to the public health professionals, clinicians, laboratorians, pharmacists, epidemiologists, outreach workers, and community partners whose daily efforts support diagnosis, treatment, investigation, education, and prevention. Your dedication improves patient outcomes, protects vulnerable populations, and strengthens our shared ability to prevent transmission.

Thank you for the vital role you play in this important work!

2026 Wisconsin TB Summit – April and May

This [2026 Wisconsin TB Summit](#) offers five weeks of **free virtual sessions**, held **every Tuesday throughout April and early May**. Each session features local, state, and national TB experts discussing key topics such as current epidemiology, challenging case studies, culturally responsive care, and adult and pediatric TB radiology.

[Register Here](#)

30th National TB Conference (NTC): Submit an Abstract - April

The [30th National TB Conference](#) will be held **June 8–12, 2026**, in **Palm Springs, CA**. The conference invites poster abstracts showcasing work in TB prevention, care, research, education, and program innovation; high-scoring submissions may also be selected for oral presentation. Abstracts are due **April 10, 2026**, with notifications on **April 24, 2026**.

[Submit Abstract](#)

MCCT Attended the 2026 NAR End TB Conference of the Union

MCCT was pleased to attend the [2026 END TB Conference of The Union](#) held February 25–28 at the Westin Philadelphia.

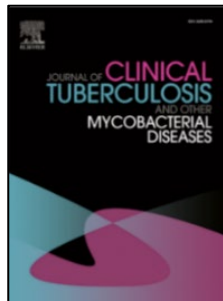
The MCCT team was honored to share two poster presentations, contributing to the conference's focus on highlighting practical insights and strengthening collaboration among clinicians, public health partners, and researchers dedicated to improving TB outcomes. The meeting served as an important opportunity to connect with colleagues and highlight ongoing work happening across our region.



JCTUBE Spotlight

[Healthcare System Strain and Healthcare Seeking Behavior](#)

A new study from Snohomish County, Washington, highlights ongoing delays in tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis in the post-COVID-19 era. Among 85 TB cases identified from 2022–2024, 16% experienced significantly delayed diagnosis, with a median delay of six months, far longer than the pre-pandemic average of about one month. Many patients waited more than four weeks to seek care, and half had multiple medical visits before TB was suspected. Factors contributing to delays included appointment barriers, changes in healthcare-seeking behavior after COVID-19, recent travel, and symptom overlap with COVID-19. Delayed diagnosis was linked to more severe disease, hospitalizations, and two TB-related deaths. This emphasizes the need for stronger provider awareness and improved access to timely TB diagnostic services.



DTBE Laboratory Branch Update

The Division of Tuberculosis Elimination Laboratory Branch (DTBE LB) is announcing an important update to its testing menu. Starting March 18, 2026, the Molecular Detection of Drug Resistance (MDDR) service will resume testing DNA extracts from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue blocks that are referred by CDC's Infectious Diseases Pathology Branch (IDPB).

Updated Referral Process

Under this renewed workflow, any FFPE tissue block that tests PCR-positive for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex at IDPB will be automatically forwarded to DTBE LB for MDDR testing. Submitters must continue receiving preapproval from IDPB before sending FFPE blocks (contact: pathology@cdc.gov), but no separate preapproval or MDDR request form is needed for DTBE LB. At this time, DTBE LB will only test DNA extracts that come directly from IDPB; DNA extracts submitted from external laboratories will not be accepted.

About the Updated Sequencing Assay

The revised assay is designed to detect mutations associated with resistance to several key TB drugs, including:

- Rifampin
- Isoniazid
- Fluoroquinolones

In addition, the test examines a limited segment of the *pncA* gene (codons 12–69) to identify certain pyrazinamide resistance markers, such as the *M. bovis* His57Asp mutation. Due to the nature of FFPE-derived DNA, full-gene *pncA* sequencing is not possible.

Reporting of Results

Results will be delivered through [CDC's Specimen Test Order and Reporting](#) (CSTOR) portal. Reports will include a clarification that only a small region of *pncA* is analyzed because of DNA quality limitations with fixed-tissue samples.

For questions, please contact TBLab@cdc.gov.

Newsletter Content Suggestions

We invite you to be active participants in shaping the content of our newsletter. We will do our best to provide clarity on your TB related questions and include topics and events you would like to showcase. Simply submit your ideas to [TB Times Content Suggestion](#). Each issue we will feature suggested content, making this newsletter a true reflection of your needs.

Vision

To become a regionally, nationally, and internationally recognized Center of Excellence for tuberculosis.

Mission

To contribute, in a meaningful way, to the control, management, and elimination of tuberculosis regionally, nationally, and globally.



Medical Consultation

MCCT provides expert medical consultation to public health and medical professionals in our assigned region. We have colleagues with expertise in public health nursing, pharmacy, laboratory, occupational health, pediatrics, and radiology just to name a few.

Consultations can be requested using one of the following options:

- Submit at [IDCrowd Platform](#)
- Email tbcenter@mayo.edu
- Call 507-284-0275

IDCrowd is the preferred platform for submitting requests used by all TB COEs. If you are using IDCrowd for the first time, choose the option to register for a new membership. Additional information on how to submit a request can be found [here](#).

Mini Fellowships

As part of the TB COE initiatives, MCCT is providing mini-fellowship opportunities for healthcare professionals seeking to deepen their understanding of TB.

Experiences will be curated to meet individual learning needs. Some experiences that may be offered include shadowing healthcare professionals as they interact with patients, observing directly observed therapy (DOT), and participating in TB case reviews.

You can find out more information by emailing tbcenter@mayo.edu. To be considered for a mini fellowship, please submit an [application here](#).

Educational Requests

MCCT is able to support a variety of TB related needs including virtual and in-person training, educational material development, and technical assistance. Please contact us to discuss ways we can support your work in treating and preventing tuberculosis.

Contact Us



TBcenter@mayo.edu



centerfortuberculosis.mayo.edu



507-284-0275