



Indiana
Department
of
Health

OPERATION ALLIES WELCOME: RESPONSE AT CAMP ATTERBURY

PAM PONTONES, MA

DEPUTY STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

STATE EPIDEMIOLOGIST

World TB Day

March 30, 2022

Overseas Refugee Health Screenings

- Prior to departure for the U.S., refugees typically receive a health screening by a panel physician
 - Medical history & physical examination
 - Vaccinations
 - Mental health
 - STDs
 - **Tuberculosis**

TB Overseas Refugee Health Screenings

- Screening includes medical history, physical examination, and chest x-ray
 - Children 2-14 receive an IGRA in place of chest x-ray
- If chest x-ray is suggestive of TB or person has signs/symptoms of TB, three sputum specimens are collected for smear & culture
 - Class B status on U.S. arrival

Operation Allies Welcome

- Afghan guests traveled from Afghanistan to “lily pad” stopover bases in UAE, Qatar, Greece, Italy, Germany, and Spain
- From there traveled to various destination countries, including the US via Dulles and Philadelphia airports
- Eight safe haven bases in US: Marine Corps Base, Quantico; Fort Pickett, VA; Fort Lee, VA; Holloman AFB, New Mexico; Fort McCoy, WI; Fort Bliss, TX; Joint base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ; Camp Atterbury, IN
- Access to range of services including medical care, mental health services, English language instruction, job-related skill-building, cultural learning, craft classes, resettlement services

TB Screening at Safe Haven Bases

- Due to the need for rapid evacuation, most Afghan arrivals relocation to the U.S. without receiving and overseas medical screening evaluation
- TB screening conducted at Safe Haven Bases in place of overseas screening

TB Screening at Camp Atterbury

- All guests (>2 years) received an IGRA (QFT) done by medical contractor, tested through LabCorp
- Guest with a positive IGRA received a chest x-ray
 - Done on-site, interpreted by a remote radiologist
- Guests with a chest x-ray interpreted as suggestive of TB had three sputum specimens collected
 - Sent to IDOH Laboratory
 - Smear, culture, antibiotic susceptibility (if positive)

Results of TB Screening at Camp Atterbury

- 6,440 IGRAs done at Camp Atterbury
 - 1,031 positive results (16% positivity)

Age in Years	Total IGRAs	Positives	Positivity
<15	2208	60	2.7%
15-24	1388	176	12.7%
25-44	2404	586	24.4%
45-64	382	169	44.2%
≥65	45	34	75.6%

Results of TB Screening at Camp Atterbury

- Collected sputum specimens on 33 guests
 - 27 guests with abnormal chest x-rays
 - Two guests with history of TB disease
 - Four guests who were contacts
- Total of 111 sputum specimens tested by IDOH Laboratory
- Total of five guests with positive sputum cultures
 - Only one guest with smear-positive sputum (very low)

IDOH TB Partnership

- IDOH TB Prevention & Care program partnered with Camp Atterbury to provide case management and clinical review
- IDOH provided all medications for guests with TB disease and those needing window therapy via Purdue Pharmacy
 - Hand delivered therapy to Camp Atterbury
 - Provided treatment for six guests with TB disease and two guests on window therapy
- IDOH ensured care was transferred to final destination

Other Public Health Efforts

- Mass MMR vaccination
- Daily communicable disease surveillance
- Outbreak detection and mitigation
- Communicable disease testing and specimen transportation
- Vaccination for COVID and influenza/vaccine and Ig supplies
- Influenza sentinel surveillance
- Perinatal hepatitis B follow-up
- Vector trapping and mitigation
- Education and material translation
- Guidance recommendations: I/Q, masking, treatment, prophylaxis
- Warm handoff to destination states
- Linkage to area hospitals

Thank You

Pam Pontones
Deputy Health Commissioner
State Epidemiologist
ppontones@isdh.in.gov
317-233-7400

*The **health** of the people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their powers as a state depend. ~Benjamin Disraeli*

*Indiana State Department of Health
Promoting, protecting, and improving health of Hoosiers since 1881*

