Supplementary Material

1. Example letter providing information on TB

Dear Parent/Guardian

While attending XXXXXXXX Nursery earlier this year your child may have come into contact with a person who has subsequently been found to have tuberculosis (TB). It is a routine procedure for us to inform possible contacts, in line with the Public Health guidelines. The risk of your child contracting the illness is minimal and there is no reason to be concerned. This information has also been passed to your general practitioner (GP).

Public Health England and the XXXXXXXX TB service wish to ensure that all sensible precautions are being taken and so children who have been identified as at a slightly higher risk are being offered screening. Although your child is not involved in the screening we thought all parents should be made aware we are taking the proper steps.

TB is spread from person to person through the air when someone with the disease is coughing. It is not easy to catch and usually requires close prolonged contact with someone who is coughing.

Symptoms of TB include the following:

1. Persistent cough
2. Feelings of sickness or weakness, lethargy, and/or reduced playfulness
3. Night sweats or high temperature for 3 weeks or more
4. Weight loss or failure to thrive

More information on TB and symptoms can be found on the NHS Choices website: http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/tuberculosis/.

If you are concerned that your child may have these symptoms now or in the future please discuss this with your GP.

Please be assured that the risk of TB is very low, this has been sent for your information only.

Yours sincerely

2. Example letter providing advice on screening with IGRA

Dear Parent/Guardian

While attending XXXXXXXX earlier this year your child may have come into contact with a person who has subsequently been found to have tuberculosis (TB). The risk of your child contracting the illness is very slight indeed, but obviously we wish to ensure that all sensible precautions are taken. We have decided to offer a screening test to your child to allay any possible concern.

The screening test will take place at XXXXXXXX on (date) …… at … (time) ….. The test is a simple blood test which will take just a few minutes. If you wish to accompany your child for the test you are very welcome. The result of the test will take a few days.

We have enclosed a consent form which we would be grateful if you would complete; this will help us determine which test is the most appropriate for your child. Please return the consent form to the Nursery Manager by (date).

If you have any queries about the contents of this letter please contact the TB Specialist Nurse on the above number.

Please be reassured that we are taking this step purely as a precautionary measure as the risk of any exposure to TB has been minimal. More information about TB can be found on the NHS Choices web site: http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/tuberculosis/.

We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

3. Literature review methodology

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