

## BCG (Commentary)

### Prevalence of TB

Using information made available by the World Health Organisation in 2005 the following countries can be identified as having a **low** community prevalence of TB (usually substantially less than 20:100,000). Babies born to families from such countries are not thought to merit routine BCG at birth in the UK unless there is a recent history of TB in the family (or its regular contacts) -

Australia	Czech Republic	Israel	Norway	Switzerland
Austria	Denmark	Italy	Oman	United Arab Emirates
Belgium	Finland	Jordan	Puerto Rico	United Kingdom
Canada	France	Lebanon	Oman	United States
Chile	Germany	Luxembourg	Puerto Rico	The West Indies
Costa Rica	Greece	Malta	San Marino	
Cuba	Iceland	Netherlands	Slovenia	
Cyprus	Ireland	New Zealand	Sweden	

There seems to be a **moderate** prevalence of TB in the following countries –

Albania	Hungary	Libya	Saudi Arabia	Spain	Uruguay
Egypt	Iran	Mexico	Serbia and Montenegro	Tunisia	West Bank
Fiji	Japan	Poland	Seychelles	Turkey	& Gaza

It should be assumed that the prevalence of TB is **high** (usually greater than 40:100,000) in all other countries unless there is reliable information to the contrary. See the WHO report on Global TB Control WHO/HTM/TB/2005.349 – [www.who.int/tb/publications/global\\_report/](http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/)