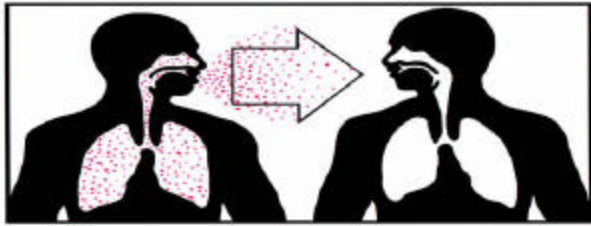


The TB Skin Test (Mantoux)

The tuberculosis (TB) skin test, sometimes called a “Mantoux,” is a simple, harmless way to find out if you have latent TB infection.



What Is Latent TB Infection? There are two phases of tuberculosis; both phases can be treated with medicine. When TB germs first enter your body, they cause latent TB infection. Without treatment, latent TB infection can become active TB disease. Anyone can get TB because it spreads from one person to another through the air.

Phase 1 Latent TB Infection	Phase 2 Active TB Disease
TB germs are “asleep” in your body. This phase can last for a very long time – even many years.	TB germs are active and spreading. They are damaging tissue in your body.
You don’t look or feel sick. Your chest x ray is usually normal.	You usually feel sick. Your doctor will do special tests to find where TB is harming your body.
You can’t spread TB to other people.	If the TB germs are in your lungs, you can spread TB to other people by coughing, sneezing, talking, or singing.
Usually treated by taking one medicine for 9 months.	Treated by taking 3 or 4 medicines for at least 6 months.

How Can I Tell If I Have Latent TB Infection?

A TB skin test can show if you have latent TB infection. You could have latent TB infection if you have ever spent time close to someone with active TB disease. A small needle is used to inject “tuberculin” (PPD) just under the skin

on your forearm. The PPD solution is completely harmless and contains no live tuberculosis organisms.

The TB Test Is Safe For People Of All Ages And Is Safe For Women Who Are Pregnant Or Breastfeeding

If you have a reaction to the test, the area around the injection site may be red and raised, like a mosquito bite. The size of the reaction will be measured and it will go away in a few days.

How Do I Take Care Of My Arm After The TB Skin Test?

- Don’t cover the spot with a bandage or tape
- Be careful not to rub it or scratch it
- If the spot itches, put a cold cloth on it
- You can wash your arm and dry it gently

You Must Return To Have Your Arm Checked 2 Or 3 Days After The Tb Skin Test, Even If Your Arm Looks Ok To You.

What Is A Negative TB Skin Test?

A negative TB skin test usually means that you don’t have TB. The test is “negative” if there is no raised area (or only a very small bump) at the spot where the fluid was injected. It doesn’t matter if you have redness or bruising at the site of the injection.

What Is A Positive TB Skin Test?

Most people with a positive TB skin test have latent TB infection. The test is “positive” if there is a raised area of a certain size where the fluid was injected. The reaction must be evaluated and measured by a health care professional.

You Should Have A TB Skin Test If:

- you have had frequent close contact with someone who has active TB disease
- you have lived in a country where many people have TB
- you work or live in a nursing home, clinic, hospital, prison, or homeless shelter
- you have HIV infection or certain other health problems.

What If I've Had BCG Vaccine?

Even if you have had BCG vaccine, you can have a TB skin test.

- People who have had BCG vaccine still can get latent TB infection and active TB disease
- BCG vaccine may help protect young children from getting very sick with TB. This protection goes away as people get older
- BCG vaccine sometimes causes a TB skin test reaction

If you have a positive reaction to the TB skin test, it probably is from TB germs in your body - not from your BCG vaccine.

Protect your health and the health of your family - get a TB skin test! To get a TB skin test, contact your doctor or your public health department. You can have a TB skin test, even if you have had BCG vaccine!

You Should NOT Have a TB Skin Test if:

- You have had a positive TB skin test in the past
- You have taken prophylactic medicine (INH) for latent tuberculosis
- You are taking steroid or immunosuppressive drugs
- You had an MMR vaccination in the past 30 days

What is a "Two Step" Test?

Some people who have been infected with M. Tuberculosis will not react to the first TB skin test that they receive, but they will have a positive reaction when given a second test. This is known as the "booster phenomenon". It is recommended that anyone who is required to have annual or periodic PPD skin testing have a two-step test.

What is the schedule for the Two-Step Test?

A two-step TB skin test consists of having 2 tests that are given 1-3 weeks apart. People only need to complete the two-step testing once. After you have completed the two-step process, you just need one test to meet testing requirements.

YOU MUST RETURN TO HAVE YOUR TB SKIN TEST READ. YOUR SKIN TEST MUST BE READ 48 TO 72 HOURS AFTER IT WAS GIVEN. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE TEST READ WITHIN THIS TIME FRAME, IT WILL HAVE TO BE REPEATED.

When Should I Return To Have My Test Read?

The schedule for having your test read at the Clallam County Department of Health & Human Services is as follows:

DAY TEST GIVEN	DAY & TIME TO RETURN
Tuesday	Thursday or Friday from 8:30am – 12:00pm or 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Wednesday	Friday from 8:30am – 12:00pm or 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Where Do I Call If I Have Any Questions Or Concerns About My TB Skin Test?

You can reach the Clallam County Department of Public Health by calling 360-417-2274. Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm; we are closed from 12:00 to 1:00 for lunch every day. A voice mail may be left during non-office hours and your call will be returned.



Clallam County Dept. Health & Human Services
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Port Angeles, WA 98362
360-417-2274

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