

Tuberculin Skin Testing Procedure for Employees

Test Administration:

Give 0.1 ml of 5 Tuberculin Units Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) intradermally.

Test Results:

Read the test between 48 and 72 hours. (If more than 72 hours has elapsed and there is not an easily palpable positive reaction, repeat the test on the other arm and read at 48 to 72 hours after the second administration)

Measure the induration, not erythema. Report the results in millimeters of induration.

Positive Reactions:

5mm or more of induration is considered positive for:

- Persons with HIV infection
- Persons who have had close contact with an infectious tuberculosis case
- Persons who have chest radiographs consistent with old, healed tuberculosis
- Intravenous drug users whose HIV status is unknown

10mm or more of induration is considered positive for:

- Foreign-born persons from high prevalence areas (e.g., Asia, Africa, and Latin America)
- Intravenous drug users known to be HIV seronegative
- Medically-underserved low income populations, including high-risk racial or ethnic minority populations, especially African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans
- Residents of long-term care facilities (e.g., correctional institutions, nursing homes, mental institutions)
- Persons with medical conditions which have been reported to increase the risk of tuberculosis such as silicosis, being 10% or more below ideal body weight, chronic renal failure, diabetes mellitus, immunosuppressive therapy, some hematologic disorders (e.g., leukemias and lymphomas), and other malignancies
- Locally identified high risk populations
- Children who are in one of the high risk groups listed above
- Health care workers who provide services to any of the high risk groups

15mm or more induration is always considered positive, especially for persons with no risk factors for tuberculosis.