

TB Skin Test Screening

WHO NEEDS TESTING

- Persons traveling in TB endemic area
- Homeless/migrant worker
- Contact to a TB case
- Foreign-born person from TB endemic area
- Substance Abuser
- Immunosuppressed persons (e.g., HIV+ or organ transplant)
- Residents/employees of health care, correctional, or long-term care facilities
- Persons with chronic medical problems (e.g., diabetes, ESRD, etc.)

WHY IS SKIN TESTING IMPORTANT?

- Persons found to have TB infection are potential TB disease cases of the future.

FIGHT INFECTION

WHEN SHOULD TESTING BE DONE?

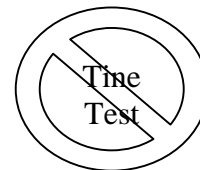
Yearly testing is required for:

- Health care workers*
- Residents of long-term care nursing facilities*
- Injecting drug users

* ***Two-step testing is required for health care workers and persons admitted to nursing homes.***

WHAT TEST AND TEST MATERIALS SHOULD BE USED

- A Mantoux skin test with Tubersol or Aplisol PPD material is recommended
- Remember to date the vial and discard 30 days after opening
- Tine tests are no longer recommended because the delivery of the PPD material is inadequate



IS IT IN WRITING?

- Per Health Department Policy, a verbal report of a positive skin test is unacceptable. There must be written documentation.
- If no documentation is available, a skin test should be applied and read. If it is positive, a chest x-ray should be ordered.
- A PPD “converter” is one who has an increase in reaction size of ≥ 10 mm within a period of two years.

READING & DOCUMENTING PPD RESULTS

Check for reaction 48-72 hours after application

- Feel for induration
- Measure only the induration; do not measure discoloration
- Record the reaction in millimeters. No reaction (negative test) should be recorded as "0.0 mm"
- Give the patient documentation of test results
- Instruct the patient about the importance of good record keeping

WHAT TO DO?

- Positive skin test reading should be followed up with a PA chest radiograph. A radiograph that is less than three months old is also acceptable.
- Consider treatment – Please refer to **LTBI Treatment Guidelines**

WHAT'S POSITIVE?

Pierce County follows CDC and Washington State Department of Health TB guidelines:

5 mm is positive in:

- persons with suspect/known HIV infection
- close contacts of an infectious case
- persons with chest radiograph suggestive of TB
- persons with organ transplants and other immunosuppressed persons

10 mm is positive in:

- recent arrivals from high-prevalence areas
- injection drug users
- residents, employees of high-risk congregate settings
- mycobacteriology laboratory personnel
- persons with clinical conditions that make them high-risk

15 mm is positive in all others. (Persons with no known risk factor should not be tested.)

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- PPD skin test classes are provided by a private contractor at the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department for a fee of \$30.00.
- For further information and to enroll in the class, call Xuan at 253 798-4732.

REPORT ALL POSITIVE PPD TEST RESULTS

Call Communicable Disease Control Program

Main Phone: 253 798-6410

24 Hour Reporting Line: 253 798-6534

Confidential Fax: 253 798-7666