

Do I Need a TB Skin Test?



Tuberculosis (TB) Skin testing is recommended only for people who: have symptoms of TB or are at higher risk for becoming infected with TB germs or are at higher risk of becoming sick if they have the TB infection.

Should I be tested?

You may need the TB test if you:

- have any signs of TB (cough, tiredness, night sweats, fever, weight loss, coughing up blood)
- have close contact with someone who has TB disease
- are a health care worker
- live or work in a prison, jail, mental institution, or a nursing home
- have lived or traveled in a country where a lot of people have TB
- use needles to inject drugs
- have certain medical conditions such as
 - cancer
 - severe kidney disease
 - diabetes
 - silicosis
 - HIV infection
 - are on steroid medication
 - are severely underweight

A health care worker will ask you questions to find out if you should be tested for TB.

Please tell the health care worker if you have had a positive reaction to a TB test in the past or been on medication for TB disease or to prevent TB disease.

What if my employer or school requires a TB Test?

If the health care worker determines that you do not need to be tested, you will be given a letter for your employer, school, or who ever sent you for the test. The letter will state that you have had a negative TB screening assessment and a skin test was not needed.

Not Everyone Needs a TB Skin Test

If you have questions, contact your public health department or your doctor.

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