



Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Recommendations for Healthcare Workers and Volunteers

Baseline TB screening is recommended for all healthcare workers in all healthcare settings, including:

- an individual risk assessment that identifies risks for TB (temporary or permanent residence in a high-incidence country, prior TB, current or planned immune suppression, or close contact with someone who has had infectious TB since the last tuberculin skin test (TST)),
- a symptom evaluation, and
- a TST for those without documented prior TB disease or latent TB infection.

Volunteers

All volunteers should be screened for risk factors for latent TB infection. Consideration could be given to performing a TST only for those who expect to volunteer at least one-half day per week or who have risk factors for latent TB infection.

Requirements for Contract Workers and Students

Supplying agencies or schools are responsible for pre-placement TB screening and follow-up. This should be clarified with agencies or schools to confirm that individual contract workers and/or students have had their TB screening prior to starting the placement.

TST guidelines:

	Recommendation	Results – What to do next
Person with unknown or undocumented TST	A 2-step TST is required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If both TSTs are negative, routine periodic TB testing is generally not recommended.^a • If either TST is positive refer to *Person with a positive TST.
Person with documented results of previous 1-step TST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If TST was negative and done >12 months ago, a 2-step TST is necessary. • If TST was negative and done <12 months ago, one TST is required. • If TST was positive, refer to *Person with a positive TST. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If TST(s) negative, routine periodic TB testing is generally not recommended.^a • If TST is positive, refer to *Person with a positive TST.
Person with documented results of previous 2-step TST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If both TSTs were negative, a 1-step TST is necessary. • If TST was positive, refer to *Person with a positive TST. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If TST is negative, routine periodic TB testing is generally not recommended.^a • If TST is positive, refer to *Person with a positive TST.



***Person with a Positive TST**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to healthcare provider to be assessed for active TB disease, including a chest x-ray, a medical evaluation, and consideration for treatment of TB infection. • Provide education on the signs and symptoms of TB. • A TST should not be performed on anyone who has documentation of a previous positive TST or has documentation of prior TB disease. <p>NOTE: Report any healthcare worker/volunteer with a new positive TST to the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit.</p>	<p>Person should not work until healthcare provider provides documentation that the person does not have active TB disease.</p>
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^a There is no indication for routine organization-wide periodic TST of all healthcare workers. Periodic screening (e.g., annual testing) of healthcare workers at higher risk for occupationally acquired TB based on the organization risk assessment, may be warranted. Examples of such situations might be healthcare workers working in bronchoscopy suites or on units identified as having exposure episodes.

Note: Persons with immunocompromising conditions may have a negative TST even though they have TB infection (latent).

Reference:

Canadian Journal of Respiratory, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine (2022). Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 8th edition. Retrieved from: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ucts20/6/sup1?nav=toCList>

“Recommendations for Employees and Volunteers” by Peel Public Health, February 14, 2013. Adapted with permission Peel Public Health.

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