

2-STEP TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST (TST) INFORMATION SHEET

The Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) is a screening method developed to evaluate an individual's status for active Tuberculosis (TB) or Latent TB infection.

The 2-Step TST is recommended for initial skin testing of adults who will be periodically retested, such as healthcare workers. A 2 step is defined as two TST's done within 3 months of each other. The optimal time for testing would be to complete the 2 TST's within 1-4 weeks of each other.

In some persons who have had an unknown, past exposure with *M. tuberculosis*, their body's ability to react to a TST may wane over time. When given a TST years after exposure, these persons may have a (false) negative reaction to the first test. However, this first TST may stimulate the immune system so that when a second TST is given, the body is then able to produce a true positive response, indicating a past infection.

History of BCG vaccine is not an exception to the 2-Step TST.