

# ***How is two-step tuberculin skin testing done?***

The two-step tuberculin skin test (TST) is used to detect individuals with past tuberculosis (TB) infection who now have diminished skin test reactivity. This procedure will reduce the likelihood that a boosted reaction is later interpreted as a new infection.

## ***Who should receive a two-step TST?***

New employees, at the time of hire, who will be tested periodically for TB infection and who:

- have never been tested; or
- have no documentation of prior testing; or
- do not remember being tested; or
- tested negative *over 12 months ago*.

## ***Four appointment schedule for two-step testing***

### **Visit 1, day 1**

- Place the first TST and have the employee return in 48 to 72 hours for the test to be read.

### **Visit 2, day 2 - 3**

- Evaluate, measure, and interpret the TST. Document the millimeters (e.g. 0 mm, 4 mm, 12 mm).
- If the first TST is negative, give the patient an appointment to return for placement of the second test in 7 – 21 days.
- If the first TST is positive, it indicates that the employee is infected with TB. No further testing is indicated. Refer the employee for a chest x-ray and physician evaluation. An asymptomatic employee, whose chest x-ray indicates no active disease, may begin work.

### **Visit 3, day 7 - 21**

- Place the second TST on all employees whose first test was negative using the alternate arm.

### **Visit 4, 48 - 72 hours after second test placed**

- Evaluate, measure, and interpret the TST. Document the millimeters (e.g. 0 mm, 4 mm, 12 mm).
- If the second TST is negative, the patient is not infected.
- If the second test is positive, it indicates that the employee is infected with TB. No further testing is indicated. Refer the employee for a chest x-ray and physician evaluation. An asymptomatic employee, whose chest x-ray indicates no active disease, may begin work.

