

Two-Step TST Protocol

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.

Two-step testing is used for the initial skin testing of persons who will be re-tested periodically, such as health care workers (or health science students as they enter their programs). This is the requirement at UIHC and many hospitals. It is a NEW requirement for health science students starting with the spring 2016 registration session.

If you have never had any TB skin testing, the two-step TST is done as follows: The first test is placed, and results are read in 48-72 hrs. The second test is placed at least 7 days after the reading of the first test, and read at 48-72 hrs. Send documentation of both tests, and include placement date, reading date, result and mm induration.

If you have documentation of (1) negative TST in the past 12 months, or documentation of (2) negative TSTs in your past, you only need one more TST to meet the two-step requirement.

Remember that after you complete your initial TB testing, you will need to do this annually in order to be in compliance with health science student (and healthcare worker) requirements.

Here are some scenarios to help you plan for the testing you may need to complete. Please call our Nurseline at 335-9704 if you have questions.

DOCUMENTATION:	WHAT YOU NEED:
No previous TST result	Two-step baseline TSTs
Previous single negative TST result (documented or not) greater than one year before entry into health science program	Two-step baseline TSTs
Previous documented negative TST result within last year, OR any two negative TSTs in the past	Single TST needed for baseline testing; this test will be the second-step

Adapted from the CDC Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Health-Care Settings, 2005.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5417a1.htm?s_cid=rr5417a1_e

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