**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](https://www.cdc.gov/tb/webcourses/course/chapter3/3_testing_for_tb_disease_and_ltbi_3_special_considerations_in_tb_testing_boosted_reaction.html) is later interpreted as a new active infection.

Two-step testing is used for the initial skin testing of health care workers and students in the health sciences who will be working with patients. This is an employment requirement for staff at UIHC and many hospitals. This is a UI requirement for health science students that a two-step TST be done at the start of the program, for those who elect skin testing rather than the blood test.

If you have never had any TB skin testing, the two-step TST is done as follows:

* First test is placed and results read in 48-72 hours
* Second test is placed at least 7 days after PLACEMENT of the first test and read in 48-72 hours

Be sure to send documentation of both tests, including the placement date, reading date, and results (positive/negative and mm induration).

You may have a history of two (or more) negative TB tests at any time in the past, or one negative test within the last year. **Both of these situations ONLY satisfy the first step of the two-step TST process. You must have an additional TST within the current year of your program application in order to fulfill the second step of the two-step TST requirement.** If you are not sure or have questions, feel free to call the Nurseline at 335-9704 to talk about your situation.

References:

Sosa LE, Njie GJ, Lobato MN, et al. Tuberculosis Screening, Testing, and Treatment of U.S. Health Care Personnel: Recommendations from the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association and CDC, 2019. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2019;68:439–443. DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6819a3external icon](http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6819a3)

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