

# *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.

## *Four visits? Oh my!*

The number of visits required may be reduced to **3** by using the following protocol:

### **Visit 1, Day 1**

Place the 1st TST and have the employee return in 7 days for the test to be read. If the first test is positive, it indicates that the employee is infected with TB. 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 2, Day 7**

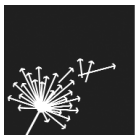
Place a 2nd TST on all employees whose 1st test is negative at 7 days.

### **Visit 3, Day 9 or 10**

Read the 2nd test at 48-72 hours. A positive 2nd test indicates TB infection in the distant past. 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.

## *Sensitivity of this method*

The majority of significant TST reactions will remain "positive" 7 days after application. Those that have diminished or disappeared by day 7 will be boosted back to positive by the 2nd TST. Reducing the number of visits from 4 to 3 will not reduce the sensitivity of the two-step TST.



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# FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

## ***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*.

This information is available at our website: [www.nationaltbcenter.edu](http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu)