

Health Information Sheet: 2-Step Tuberculosis Skin Test (PPD)

The CDC states that “The Mantoux tuberculin test is performed by placing an intradermal injection of 0.1 ml of purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin containing 5 tuberculin units (TU) into the inner surface of the forearm. The reaction to the Mantoux test should be read by a trained health care worker 48 to 72 hours after the injection. Patients should never be allowed to read their own tuberculin skin test results.”

If there is no documentation of a negative PPD test within the last year then 2-step testing is required.

Two-Step Testing

Two-step testing should be used for the *initial skin* testing of adults who will be *retested periodically, such as health care workers*.

Two-step testing is used to reduce the likelihood that a boosted reaction will be misinterpreted as a recent infection. If the reaction to the first test is classified as negative, a second test should be done a minimum of 1 week but no more than 12 months later. 2 skin tests completed within a 12 month period are acceptable as two-step PPD. If a PPD skin test is deemed positive, no further skin testing should be done and an alternate method of annual screening will be initiated.

Alternate testing for Two-Step: QuantiFERON Gold blood test

Our Health Science students are required to be tested for TB on an annual basis.