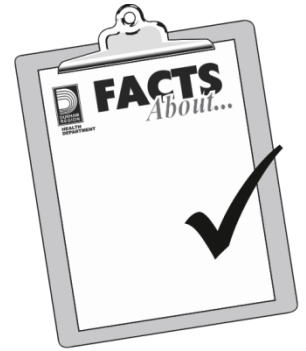




FACTS *About...*



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Tuberculin Skin Test (TST)

Purified Protein Derivative (PPD)

What is it?

- The Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) will tell you if you have been infected with TB germs.
- A TST is not a vaccine.
- A TST requires two visits with a healthcare provider.
- On the first visit, a very small amount (0.1ml) of tuberculin purified protein derivative (PPD) solution is injected just under the skin on the forearm to perform a TST.
- A tiny raised bump (“wheal” or “bleb”) will appear where the PPD has been injected, which soon fades away.
- On the second visit, the TST must be checked 48-72 hours after the PPD has been injected.
- The injection site will be examined and “read” by a trained health care provider to determine if the test is negative or positive.
- If this TST is not read by 48-72 hours, the test results will not be reliable and will need to be repeated.
- If you have been informed by the Health Department that you have been in contact with a person who has TB disease you may require two series of TST.
- The TST will **NOT** give you TB.

What if my TB skin test is positive?

- The TB skin test results depend on the size of the raised, hard area or swelling on your forearm.

Positive skin test: This means the person’s body was infected with TB germ. It does not necessarily mean the person has TB disease or that the person is sick.

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For more information

Durham Region Health Department

905-666-6241 1-800-841-2729 durham.ca

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



If you have a positive result, you will be referred to your healthcare provider for further assessment which may include a chest x-ray and medication to prevent TB disease.

Negative skin test: This means the person's body did not react to the TB skin test and that they are likely not infected with the TB germ.

Are there side effects with a TST?

- Swelling or redness at the site
- Slight itching
- Severe blistering which is very rare

The Health Department recommends that persons wait in a designated area 15 minutes after the TST to make sure no reaction occurs.

Who should receive a TST?

Individuals who should be considered for TB skin test include:

- Household contacts of a person who has respiratory TB disease
- People who have been in contact with a person who has TB disease for a close, prolonged period of time
- People with underlying medical conditions or weakened immune system
- People born in other countries with high rates of TB
- People with old or healed TB without proper TB treatment
- People who are homeless or under-housed
- People who abuse alcohol or recreation drugs
- Travellers who are visiting country with high rates of TB
- Staff and residents of correctional facilities
- Health care and daycare workers and volunteers
- Aboriginal persons in communities with high rates of TB

Who should NOT get a TST?

The following persons should **NOT** receive a TST:

- Those with symptoms of TB disease (such as fever, weight loss, cough, night sweats, fatigue)
- Those who have had a previous positive TST result
- Those who had history of TB infection or TB disease in the past

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- Those who have had severe blistering reactions (very rare) from a TST or those with extensive burns or eczema on their forearms
- Those who are ill with major viral infections (not a common cold)
- Those who have received measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chickenpox), oral polio and yellow fever immunization in the past 4 weeks; defer for 4 weeks
- Those who have had an anaphylactic or other allergic reaction to a previous TST test
- Those who have a severe allergy (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of any vaccine(s)
- Those who have allergies to any of the following components of Tubersol® :
 - Purified protein derivative of *M. tuberculosis* (PPD)
 - Phenol
 - Polysorbate 80 (Tween 80)

The following persons **CAN** have a TST even if they:

- Have a common cold
- Have been immunized greater than 4 weeks prior with live attenuated virus vaccines
- Are pregnant or breastfeeding
- Have received BCG (Bacille Calmette-Guerin) vaccination (vaccine for TB) in the past

Your record of protection

Keep a record of your TB skin test. **A positive TST is never to be repeated** as the test results will always remain positive and there may be an increased reaction at the injection site.

Keep your records in a safe place!

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