



Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Recommendations for Health Care Workers (Employees and Volunteers)

TB screening is recommended upon initial hire or placement for all health care workers (employees and volunteers). This includes an individual risk assessment that identifies risk for TB, a symptom evaluation, and a tuberculin skin test (TST) for those without documented prior TB disease or latent TB infection (see table below).

Routine periodic/annual TST for employees and volunteers with a negative baseline TST is not recommended, although health care organizations can consider whether periodic screening for selected health care workers is warranted based on their organizational risk assessment.

A volunteer is one who expects to work 150+ hours a year (approximately one-half day per week).

Note: A TST should NOT be performed on a person who was previously TST-positive or has prior documented TB disease.

	Initial Assessment	Results – What to do next
Person with unknown or undocumented TST	A 2-step TST is required	If both tests are negative, annual TST is not recommended. If the first step is positive, a second step is not necessary. If either step is positive, refer to *person with a positive TST
Person with documented results of previous 1-step TST (no documented 2-step TST)	If test was negative and done more than 12 months ago , a 2-step TST is required. If test was negative and done less than 12 months ago , one TST is required.	If tests are negative, annual TST is not recommended. If either test is positive refer to *person with a positive TST

<p>Person with documented results of previous 2-step TST</p>	<p>If both tests were negative, no further testing is recommended.</p>	<p>If any previous test was positive, refer to *person with a positive TST</p>
<p>*Person with a positive TST</p>	<p>Refer to health care provider to rule out active TB disease, including a chest x-ray and a medical evaluation, including consideration for treatment of TB infection.</p> <p>The person should be informed of the signs and symptoms of active TB disease.</p> <p>Future skin testing is not recommended.</p>	<p>If symptomatic, person should not work until health care provider provides documentation that the person does not have infectious TB disease.</p> <p>Treatment for those with TB infection (LTBI) is encouraged in the absence of contraindications to the recommended medications.</p> <p>Note: Report any employee or volunteer with a new positive TST to Durham Region Health Department</p>

Requirements for Contract Workers and Students

Supplying agencies or schools are responsible for pre-placement TB assessment and follow-up. This should be clarified with agencies or schools to confirm that individual contract workers and/or students have had their TST and any additional assessment as needed to rule out TB disease prior to starting the placement.

Reference: Canadian Tuberculosis Standards, 8th edition, 2023