

Negative test

This usually means that you do not have TB germs in your body.

Positive TB Skin Test

What Does It Mean

You have the TB germs in your body. If the germs are sleeping, you have **TB infection**. If the germs are awake and growing you have **TB disease**. Most people with TB disease feel sick.

What's Next?

You will be sent for a Chest X-ray: may show scars or disease.

If you are coughing you will be asked to provide a Sputum sample : or “spit” which is sent to the lab to test for TB germs.

Services Provided by TBSA

- Management of TB Cases
- Consultative Services to Community Health Nurses
- Public Education Sessions
- Inservice Education to Community Health Nurses
- Community Skin Testing Surveys

For Further Information About Tuberculosis Please Contact Your Community Health Centre

or
TB Services to Aboriginals
BC Centre for Disease Control Society
655 W 12th Ave
Vancouver BC V5Z 4R4

Telephone:(604) 707-2696
Fax: (604) 707-2690
www.bccdc.ca



BC Centre for Disease Control

TUBERCULOSIS IN FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

TB SKIN TEST



ARE YOU LOSING
BREATH ENERGY SPIRIT ?



MAY BE THE CULPRIT...
CHECK IT OUT

TB Services to Aboriginals
Division of TB Control

TB SKIN TEST

A TB skin test is given to show if a person has TB germs in their body. People who have TB germs in their body have either **TB infection** or **TB disease**.

How Is The TB Skin Test Done ?

A small amount of fluid is injected just beneath the skin surface of your arm.

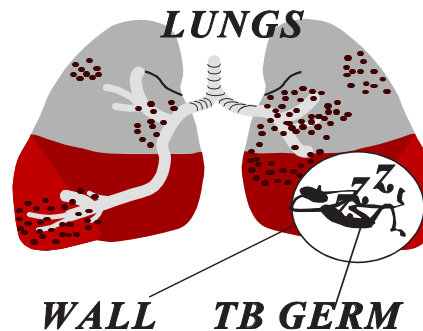
You must return 48-72 hours later for the nurse to look at your arm. (The test can only be read by a trained health care worker)

If you are HIV positive, taking steroids or have had a recent vaccination, please tell the doctor or nurse because it can effect the skin test result.

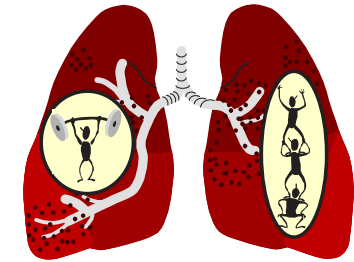
What is Tuberculosis (TB)?

TB is a tiny germ which you breathe into your lungs. The body fights back by building a wall around the TB germs. Most people do not get sick at this time. The germs “go to sleep”.

This is TB infection. A person does not feel sick and cannot make anyone sick.



If the body’s defenses are unable to fight off the TB germs, they start to grow and multiply. This is **TB disease**. The person may feel sick and can spread the germs to other people.



Signs & Symptoms TB Disease of the Lungs

- Coughing for 2 weeks
- spitting up blood
- chest pain
- weight loss
- night sweats
- feeling tired or weak

If you have any of these symptoms you should ask your Doctor or Health Nurse about Tuberculosis.

Positive test

A slightly raised area around the injection site. It may be red and itchy. Do not scratch it. You may put a cold cloth over it.