

# Guidance on CDC Recommendations for TB Testing

Organizational TB Testing requirements must be consistent with State and local regulation as well as Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) directives specific to medical surveillance. CDC recommendations for testing of healthcare workers should be referenced to complete the organizational risk assessment, develop the TB Plan and determine testing requirements to comply with your State Department of Health. While CDC recommends baseline testing for all new hires for all risk levels, they offer recommendations of when a two-step TST (or blood test) vs a single TST is indicated. ***If your State requires you to follow CDC recommendations below is guidance for meeting compliance with TB Testing.***

<b>Situation</b>	<b>Recommended testing</b>
No previous TST result	Two-step baseline TST or *TB Blood Test
Previous negative TST result <b>greater than 12 months</b> before new employment	Two-step baseline TST or *TB Blood Test
Previously negative TST result $\leq 12$ months	Single TST or Blood Test; two-step testing is not necessary
If new hire presents <b>2 or more</b> previously documented negative TSTs but most recent TST >12 months before new employment	Single TST or blood test; two-step testing is not necessary (result would have already boosted)
Previous documented positive TST result	No TST- Chest X-Ray (CXR) required.
Previous undocumented positive TST result*	Two-step baseline TST(s) or *TB Blood Test
Previous BCG <sup>†</sup> vaccination	Two-step baseline TST(s) or *TB Blood Test

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## **\*TB Blood Test:**

TB blood tests may be given in lieu of skin test especially for those:

- who have received the TB vaccine Bacille Calmette–Guérin (BCG).
- who have a difficult time returning for a second appointment to look for a reaction to the TST.

TB blood tests are also called **interferon-gamma release assays or IGRAs**.

- Two TB blood tests are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and are available in the United States: **the QuantiFERON®–TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT) and the T- SPOT®.TB test (T-Spot)**.
- **Positive TB blood test:** This means that the person has been infected with TB bacteria. Additional tests are needed to determine if the person has latent TB infection or TB disease. You should see documentation of these additional test (ie: CXR)
- **Negative TB blood test:** This means that the person’s blood did not react to the test and that latent TB infection or TB disease is not likely.

**Further information concerning TB Blood Test and potential follow up required for an “INDETERMINATE” test result go to <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/testing/igra.htm>**

More detailed guidance on TB testing and screening is available on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5417.pdf>, state health department laws and regulations, as well as in Occupational Safety and Health Administration directives specific to medical surveillance.

The CHAP requirements for TB testing can be found under the Infection, Prevention, and Control (IPC) Key Performance Area. Evidence Guidelines for assessing compliance with these standards include:

- Review of the State regulations for TB testing of Healthcare Workers
- Review documents describing the organization’s TB testing and screening program.
  - Validate that it specifies when and which personnel are screened for TB.
  - Validate that the organization’s program is consistent with the state’s TB testing and screening guidelines, including the requirements for documentation of chest x-rays for personnel who have a previous history of positive TB tests.
- Review documents recording TB testing and screening for individual personnel. Validate that testing and screening occurs as described in the organization’s Infection Prevention and Control program.