

Tuberculosis (TB) Screening in Long-term Care and Retirement Homes

Recommendations for employees and volunteers

The following assessment must be initiated within 6 months before starting work or within 14 days of starting work:

Person with unknown TST	
Two-step TST is required	
Both tests are negative	Either test is positive
▼	▼
No further testing is recommended	Refer to *Person with a positive TST

Person with documented results of previous two-step TST		
Both tests were negative		Any previous test was positive
Done greater than 6 months ago	Done less than 6 months ago	▼
▼	▼	Refer below to *Person with a positive TST
One-step TST is necessary Note: If the result of this TST is positive, refer below to *Person with a positive TST	No further testing is recommended	

*Person with a positive TST	
Report person with positive TST to local Health Unit	
- A physical exam including symptom review and a chest x-ray are recommended to rule out pulmonary TB. Note: The chest x-ray can be from within the last three months unless the person is symptomatic. - Further skin testing is not recommended. - The person should be informed of the signs and symptoms of pulmonary TB.	
▼	▼
Person has symptoms of TB and/or an abnormal chest x-ray: - Collect 3 sputum samples at least 1 hour apart. - Should not work until physician provides documentation that the person does not have infectious TB disease.	Person has no symptoms: Can continue to work while physician completes assessment to rule out infectious TB.

Note: Persons with medical conditions that severely weaken the immune system may have a negative TST even though they have TB. Recommend further assessment by a specialist with expertise in TB (e.g. Infectious Disease Physician, Respirologist).

Note: Volunteers include those who expect to work regularly during the next year (approximately a half day per week or more).

** Recommend further clinical assessment of staff and volunteers aged 65 years or older with suspicious findings upon history and symptom review.

