

# Tuberculosis



## TB Skin Test (Mantoux)

### What is it?

The TB skin test is a way to find out if a person has TB infection.

Although there is more than one TB skin test, the preferred method of testing is to use the Mantoux test.

For this test, a small amount of testing material is placed just below the top layers of skin, usually on the arm.

Two or three days later a health care worker checks the arm to see if a bump has developed.

When a bump is felt the health care worker measures the size of the bump.

If the bump is of a certain size (varying with group) the test is significant and the person is presumed to have TB infection.

Once the doctor knows that a person has a TB infection he or she will want to determine if the person has TB disease. This is done by using several other tests, including a chest X-ray and a test of a person's mucus (the material that is sometimes coughed up from the lungs).

Being infected with the TB infection does not mean the person's infectious and able to pass the germ on to other people. TB drugs are provided free of charge from the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.

### What do I do if I have more questions?

Call the Health Unit at 1-800-660-5853

Source: Tuberculosis Information for Health Care Providers  
[www.on.lung.ca](http://www.on.lung.ca)