

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AFTER GETTING A TB SKIN TEST

### WHAT IF I DON'T RETURN IN TIME?

If you do not return to the clinic within 2-3 days of having your skin test placed, you will need to receive a new injection and start the test over again.

### WHAT IF MY RESULTS ARE NEGATIVE?

A negative TB test usually means that the TB bacteria is not in your body. However, if the test is done too soon after your contact with a TB infected person, the bacteria might not be detected.

### WHAT IF MY RESULTS ARE POSITIVE?

Your nurse may perform other tests to determine whether the TB bacteria in your body is latent or active. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), tuberculosis can almost always be treated and cured with medicine, so long as it is taken as directed by a doctor or nurse.

## CONTACT US

414 East Main Street  
Durham, NC 27701  
919.560.7633  
[www.dcopublichealth.org](http://www.dcopublichealth.org)



@DurhamHealthNC



Public Health



## HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, &  
Friday  
8:30 AM - 11:00 AM  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Testing is by appointment only. You must meet the requirements to be tested.

Please contact us about testing fees.

# TUBERCULOSIS (TB) CLINIC

Improving the Health of Our  
Community by Stopping the  
Spread of TB



Public Health

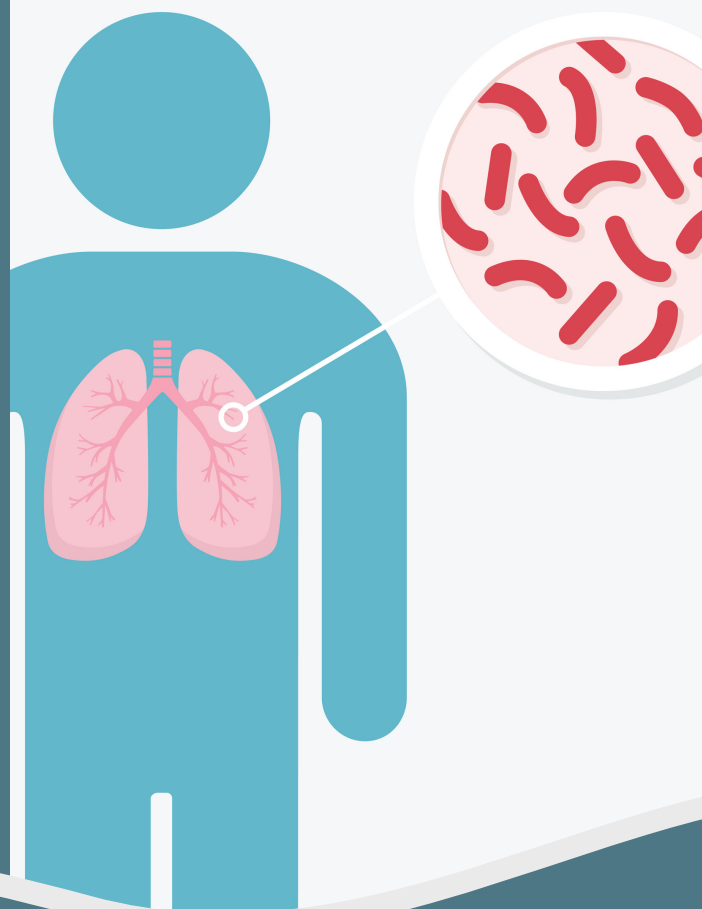


## WHAT IS TUBERCULOSIS?

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The bacteria usually attacks the lungs, but TB bacteria can attack any part of the body such as the kidneys, spine, and brain. If not treated properly, TB disease can cause death.

## HOW IS TUBERCULOSIS SPREAD?

TB is spread through the air from one person to another. The TB bacteria are expelled into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, or speaks. People nearby may breathe in the bacteria and become infected.



## SHOULD I GET TESTED FOR TB?

- You have spent time with a person known or suspected to have TB disease; or
- You have HIV infection or another condition that weakens your immune system and puts you at high risk for TB disease; or
- You have symptoms of TB disease; or
- You are from a country where TB disease is very common (most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Russia); or
- You live somewhere in the United States where TB disease is more common such as a homeless shelter, migrant farm camp, prison or jail, and some nursing homes; or
- You inject illegal drugs or abuse alcohol (beer, wine, or liquor)

## HOW DO YOU CHECK FOR TUBERCULOSIS?

The most common way to check for TB exposure is a skin test. To perform the test, a harmless fluid is injected under the skin of your forearm. Return to the clinic in 2-3 days. The nurse will look at the injection area, and inform you of your TB status.

An Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) blood test is another way to check for TB exposure. Some of your blood will be taken to do the test. We will let you know how to get the results of your test.

## TUBERCULOSIS SYMPTOMS

If you have any of these symptoms, you may be at risk:

- Unexplained productive cough lasting more than 3 weeks
- Persistent fever for more than one month
- Night sweats that leave the sheets and bed clothes wet
- Unintentional weight loss and loss of appetite
- Feeling tired or fatigued for no particular reason

## CAN I HAVE TB IF I'M NOT SICK?

**Yes. Not everyone infected with the TB bacteria becomes sick. Sometimes the bacteria is non-active and the infected person does not have symptoms and is not contagious. Those infected with an active TB bacteria may have symptoms such as coughing, chest pain, and coughing up blood or sputum. Persons with active TB may be contagious.**