

I HAVE A POSITIVE SKIN TEST. WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

It is important to follow-up with your health care provider or the Public Health Nurse to go through some important steps.

1. Your close contacts and family should also be skin-tested.
 2. A screening process should be done to determine if you have TB infection or TB disease:
 - Chest x-ray
 - Health screening for signs and symptoms such as:
 - productive, prolonged cough lasting over 2 weeks
 - shortness of breath
 - chest pain
 - bloody sputum
 - fever/chills
 - appetite loss/ unexplained weight loss
 - night sweats
 - fatigue
 - potential for exposure, past TB treatment, demographic risk factors, and medical conditions that increase risk of TB
 - If appropriate, some specimens of sputum (deeper than “spit) may need testing.
 3. If the above findings are negative, you likely have TB infection which means you have the opportunity to take preventative medication. This is usually taking one or two pills daily for several months. It is important to work with your provider on monitoring the potential side effects that could develop. It is also important to complete the full course of medication. Medication may be maintained for 9 months.
 4. If the findings are suspicious of Tuberculosis Disease, and you are having symptoms, treatment is required. You may be contagious. You will be cautioned to stay quarantined for two weeks while medication is started. More attempts will be made to make sure all contacts of yours have been checked with skin testing. Hospitalization is not usually necessary unless there is severe illness. Treatment is usually maintained for one year and may be longer.
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