

Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Chest Centers

Bronx and Staten Island

Morrisania Chest Center 1309 Fulton Avenue, 1st Floor, Bronx
Phone 718-579-4157 / 718-579-4163

Richmond Chest Center 51 Stuyvesant Place, 4th Floor, Staten Island
Phone 718-420-1028 / 718-420-1167

Brooklyn

Bedford Chest Center 485 Throop Avenue, 3rd Floor
Phone 718-574-2462 / 718-574-2463

Brownsville Chest Center 259 Bristol Street, 3rd Floor
Phone 718-495-7258 / 718-495-8281

Bushwick Chest Center 335 Central Avenue, 2nd Floor
Phone 718-573-4886 / 718-573-4891

Fort Greene Chest Center 295 Flatbush Avenue Extension, 4th Floor
Phone 718-643-8357 / 718-643-8358

Manhattan

Chelsea Chest Center 303 Ninth Avenue, 3rd Floor
Phone 212-239-1757 / 212-239-1790

Washington Heights Chest Center 600 W. 168th Street, 3rd Floor
Phone 212-368-4500

Queens

Corona Chest Center 34-33 Junction Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Phone 718-476-7635 / 718-476-7636

Far Rockaway Chest Center 67-10 Rockaway Beach Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Phone 718-474-2100 / 718-474-2101

Jamaica Chest Center 90-37 Parsons Boulevard, 4th Floor
Phone 718-262-5539

My Chest Center

Phone:

Directions:

Hours:

Other:

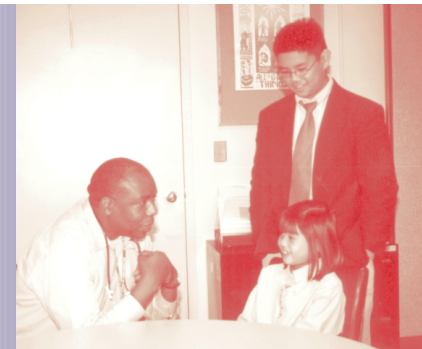
Monthly Check-ups Are Important

You must come to the center to:

- ✓ Get the next month's supply of medicine
- ✓ Make sure you are not having any side effects
- ✓ Ask any questions you have



New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Bureau of Tuberculosis Control



The BCG Vaccine

What You Should Know

Frequently Asked Questions About the BCG Vaccine



What's BCG?

BCG stands for *Bacille Calmette-Guérin*. It is a vaccine made from a weakened strain of the germ that causes tuberculosis (TB). It is given to very young children in many countries to prevent them from developing the more serious forms of TB disease.

Wait, tell me more about TB.

TB is a disease that can seriously damage the lungs and other organs. It is caused by germs that are spread through the air.

When you first breath TB germs into your lungs, your body protects you by building a wall around the germs. This makes the germs go to “sleep” and stops them from hurting your body. Sleeping TB germs are called “latent TB,” and people infected with latent TB germs are said to have **latent TB infection (LTBI)**. Latent TB germs can stay asleep for a long time, sometimes for life. People with LTBI do not feel sick. They cannot spread TB to other people.

However, sometimes the TB germs “wake up,” and your body cannot protect you. If this happens, you are said to have **active TB disease**. People with active TB disease feel very sick and can spread TB germs to other people.

So, why did I get the BCG vaccine?

Because some countries have very high rates of TB, many of the people born in these countries become infected with the TB germ. Once infected, they are at risk of becoming sick with active TB disease. The BCG vaccine is often given to infants and young children in these countries to prevent them developing the more serious forms of active TB disease, such as TB disease in the brain.

Because TB rates in the United States are low, the BCG vaccine is not used here.

Should I get tested for TB if I received the BCG vaccine?

Because the BCG vaccine does not protect you from getting infected with the TB germ, you may still need to get tested for TB. Ask your doctor if you are at risk for latent TB infection.

How do I get tested for TB?

The tuberculin skin test, or TST, is a simple skin test that is used to determine if someone has been infected with the TB germ. It is a two-step test:

1. Placement of the TST by a specially trained health professional.
2. Reading of the TST result by a trained health professional 48 – 72 hours after placement

Does the BCG vaccine affect my TB skin test (TST) results?

For most people who received a BCG vaccination, the vaccine should not affect the results of the TB skin test. However, it is very important that you let your doctor and nurse know when you received the vaccine.

TB Can Be Prevented. TB Can Be Cured.

How can the Health Department help me?

We have Chest Centers throughout the city that provide many TB services, including testing and treatment. Our staff speaks many languages. We can answer your questions about TB and the BCG vaccine. At our centers, all our services are free and confidential. You do not need health insurance, and you do not need to worry about immigration. Your health is our primary concern.