

## 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 TB Skin Test

# The TB Skin Test: What You Need to Know



The *Tuberculin Skin Test*, also known as the *TST*, is a test that shows if you have tuberculosis (TB) germs in your body. It is important to know if you are infected with TB germs because these germs can cause TB, a serious disease that can hurt your lungs and other organs.

## Tell me more about the TST.

The tuberculin skin test involves 2 steps:

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

## Then what?

Most people with TB germs in their bodies will have a “positive” tuberculin skin test. If you have a “positive” result, you will need to get some more tests (such as a chest X-ray) to see if the TB germs are hurting your lungs. People with TB germs in their bodies often need to take medicine to help their bodies kill the TB germs. If you have a “negative” test, then you probably do not need more testing.

## Should I get a TST?

You should talk to a health care professional about getting a TST if you:

- ✓ Have symptoms of active TB (coughing for 3 weeks or more, fever or chills, sweating at night, appetite loss, weight loss)
- ✓ Have spent a long time with someone who is sick with TB
- ✓ Have come to the US recently from a country with a lot of people with TB

- ✓ Live or work in a prison, homeless shelter, nursing home, or other similar group setting
- ✓ Have HIV/AIDS, diabetes or chronic kidney failure
- ✓ Are a child entering the New York City school system for the first time at the secondary school level (from seventh grade and up)

However, once you have a “positive” skin test, you should not get the skin test again because the skin test result will always be positive, even if you take TB medicines.

## Anything else I need to know about the TST?

Side effects from the TST are rare. If you have a positive skin test, sometimes the test site may swell and feel uncomfortable; the swelling should go away in 2 weeks. The skin test site may also itch. If this happens, put a cold compress on the test site. Never scratch the test site or put a bandage on it.

## What if I had the BCG vaccine?

The BCG vaccine usually does not protect people against TB. Even if you had the vaccine, you can still become infected with the TB germ. Therefore, you may still need a TST. Talk to a health care professional for more information.

## TB Can Be Prevented. TB Can Be Cured.

### How can the Health Department help me?

If you think you have been exposed to TB, you should get a TB skin test. We have Chest Centers throughout the city that provide free and confidential TB services, including testing and treatment. Our staff speaks many languages. We can answer your questions about TB. At our centers you do not need health insurance, and you do not need to worry about immigration. Your health is our primary concern.