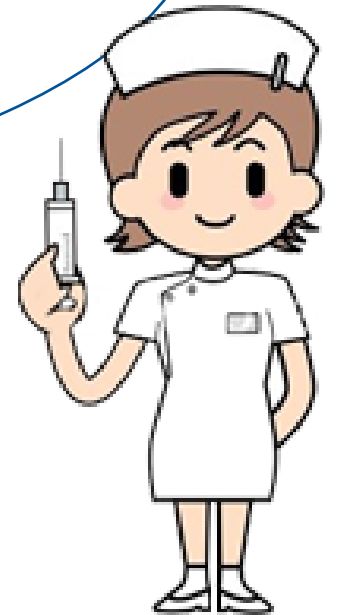


Myths and Misconceptions of TB Skin Testing



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MYTH

“A positive skin test means I have TB.”

FACT

A positive TB skin test only confirms that you have been exposed to tuberculosis and are infected, but not necessarily that you have disease.



MYTH

**“BCG vaccination does not
affect the TST.”**

FACT

Vaccination with BCG may cause a false positive reaction to a TB skin test which may complicate decisions about prescribing treatment. Disregard BCG history when interpreting TST result



MYTH

“My TST test result was negative, so I do not have tuberculosis.”

FACT

A negative TST test result may mean that the individual is not infected with tuberculosis. However, more than 20 percent of people who are infected do not have a reaction to the test.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



FAQs about Candidates

Is placing a TST on a nursing mother safe?

Yes

Placing a TST on a nursing mother is safe.



FAQs about Candidates

Can pregnant women be tested?

Yes

Placing a TST on a pregnant woman is safe. No risk to the mother or the fetus. Pregnancy is often a good time to screen and test women who are at risk of TB.



FAQs about Candidates

Can infants be tested?

Yes

However, infants may not react to a TST before 6 months of age, but should be tested if there is risk of exposure.



FAQs About Candidates

Can a person with a previous positive TST be retested?

Yes

However, retesting is not necessary if the previous result was documented.

Also, repeated skin tests do not sensitize or make persons “allergic” to tuberculin.



FAQs About Administration

**Does having more than one TST placed
in 1 year pose any risk?**

No risk exists for having
TSTs placed multiple
times per year.



FAQs About Administration

If a person does not return for a TST reading within 48 – 72 hours, when can a TST be placed on them again?

A TST can be administered again as soon as possible.

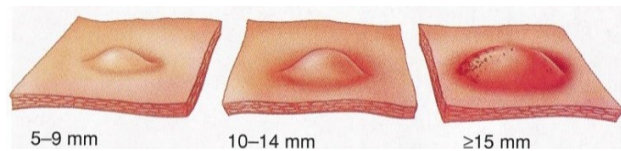


FAQs about Administration

Can a TST result be read 7 days after the TST was placed?

Yes and No

A positive TST result can be read up to 7 days after the original placement
However, if the result is negative, another TST should be placed as soon as possible.



FAQs about Administration

Should the TST site be covered with a bandage?

NO

Avoid covering the TST site with anything that interfere with reading it
(e.g., bandages, cream, ointment, lotion, liquids, medication)

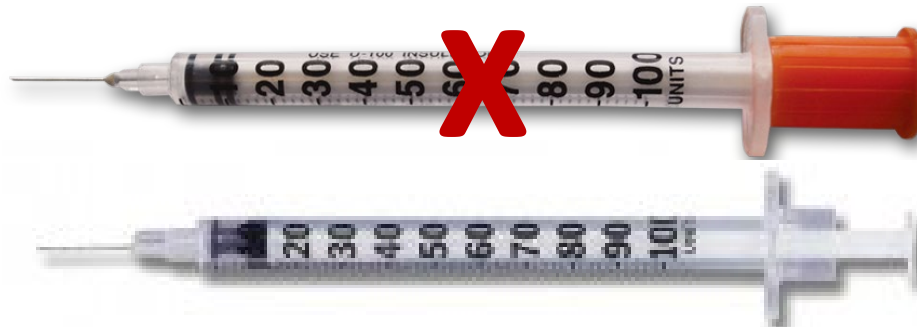


FAQs about Administration

Can an insulin syringe be used to place a TST?

No

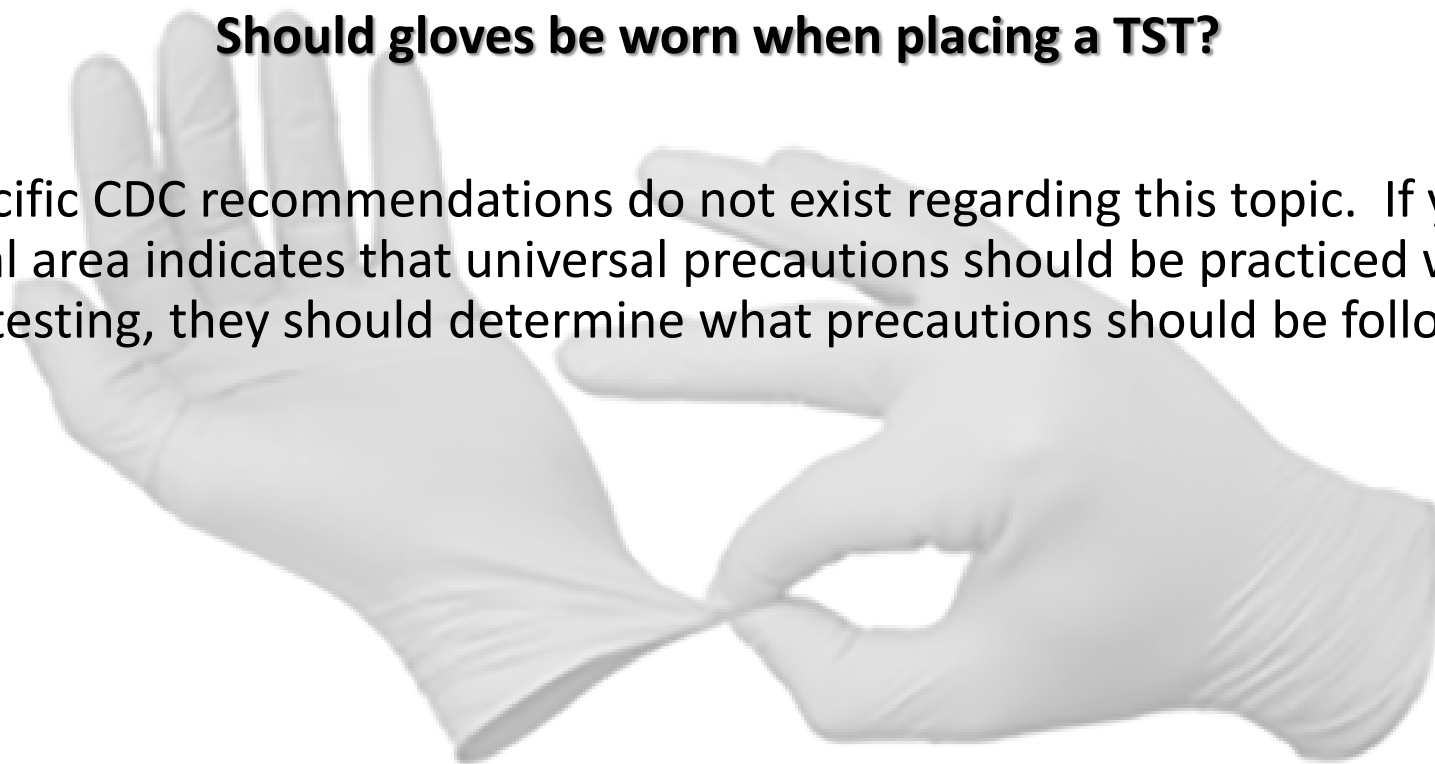
Insulin Syringes can not be used in place of a Tuberculin syringe because the units of measure are different and the needle of a TB syringe is shorter than that of an insulin syringe.



FAQs about Administration

Should gloves be worn when placing a TST?

Specific CDC recommendations do not exist regarding this topic. If your local area indicates that universal precautions should be practiced with skin testing, they should determine what precautions should be followed.



Pop Quiz!

What is the correct amount of PPD antigen to use in a Tuberculin Skin Test?

(0.1 ml) (5 Units of Tuberculin)



Pop Quiz!

After TB has been transmitted, how long does it take for the body's immune system to be able to react to tuberculin?

- A. 48-72 hours
- B. 7-10 days
- C. 2-8 weeks
- D. 6 months or more

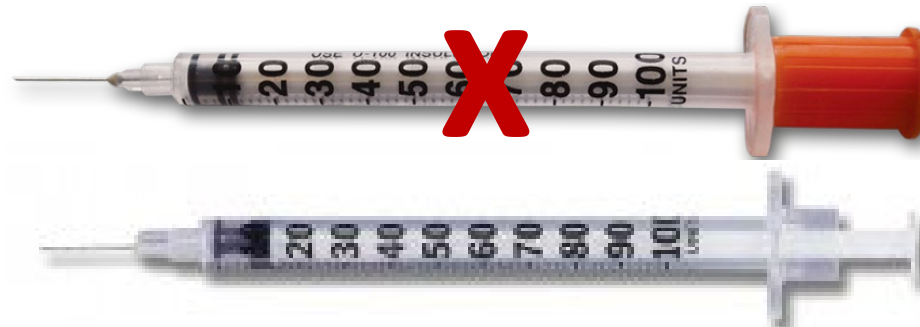


FAQs about Administration

Can an insulin syringe be used to place a TST?

No

Insulin Syringes can not be used in place of a Tuberculin syringe because the units of measure are different and the needle of a TB syringe is shorter than that of an insulin syringe.



What Do We Do with a *Negative* TST Result ?



- ✓ Provide documentation of result
- ✓ No further evaluation necessary...

What Do We Do with a *Positive* TST Result ?



- Evaluate Further
- Rule Out TB Disease
 - ✓ CXR
 - ✓ TB Symptom Screen/ Assessment
 - ✓ MD Evaluation
 - ✓ Sputum Collection
- If disease is ruled out, consider for LTBI treatment
- If patient not willing or able to take treatment, educate on TB signs and symptoms



FAQs about Interpretation

Can HCW's read their own TST?

No

HCW's should **NEVER** be allowed to read their own TST.
Experience has shown that HCW's do not measure their own
TST results reliably.



FAQs about Interpretation

Do vaccinations interfere with TST results?

Yes

Vaccinations may cause false (-) reactions. A TST should be administered either on the same day as vaccination with live virus or 4–6 weeks later.

Vaccines that might cause a false-negative TST result are:



- | | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|-------------------|
| ✓ measles | ✓ Smallpox | ✓ Rubella | ✓ live-attenuated |
| ✓ Varicella | ✓ BCG | ✓ oral polio | influenza. |
| ✓ yellow fever | ✓ Mumps | ✓ oral typhoid | |





Thank you!!