

Tuberculin Skin Test for Health Care Workers and Post-secondary Health Care Students

Baseline Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) Guidelines for Health Care Workers (HCW) and Post-secondary Health Care Students

The [Alberta public health disease management guidelines: tuberculosis](#) recommend baseline TB screening for health professionals and others who work or volunteer with populations at increased risk for TB. A tuberculin skin test (TST) is one component of screening HCW/students for TB. The purpose of a baseline TST is to document whether a HCW/student has ever been exposed to or is currently infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Access to baseline TST results enables accurate assessment and appropriate follow-up for the HCW/student if they are exposed to an infectious case of TB in the future.

Baseline Tuberculosis (TB) screening for HCW/student includes a single step Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) except in the select groups identified below

If a TST is indicated, perform a baseline two-step TST for individuals meeting the following criteria:

- HCW involved in high-risk activities (regardless of age or BCG history) such as:
 - Cough-inducing procedures
 - Autopsy
 - Morbid anatomy and pathology examination
 - Bronchoscopy
 - Designated mycobacteriology laboratory procedures especially handling cultures of *M. Tuberculosis*.
- HCW who work on high-risk units to which patients with active TB are admitted.
- HCW at facilities that require TST screening at regular intervals such as correctional facilities, homeless shelters or inner-city agencies.