



## WHAT IS A TB TEST?

A TB skin test is a tiny inoculation of inactive material from the TB bacteria placed just under the skin of the forearm. You cannot catch TB from a TB skin test. The area where the test is administered **MUST be "read" 48 to 72 hours** after it is given in order for the test to be valid. If you have never had a TB skin test before OR you cannot provide documentation showing that you have had one before, you must have TWO tests administered one to three weeks apart. This is according to Arkansas State Health Department requirements.

## WHY MUST I HAVE A TB TEST?

State law requires that all health service and food service workers be tested for TB **EVERY YEAR** that they are employed in these areas in order to protect them and the people with whom they come in contact with.

## WHAT IS A POSITIVE TB SKIN TEST?

A positive reaction refers to the size of the swelling (indurations) that result 48 to 72 hours after the test is administered. Redness or bruising at the test site **DOES NOT** indicate a positive test. A TB test is considered “positive” if the swelling exceeds 10mm or more. A positive reading **DOES NOT** mean you have TB, it simply means that your immune system is reacting to TB germs you have been exposed to in the past. If your TB test is determined to be “positive” you will be referred to the Faulkner County Health Department for evaluation and possible treatment.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO GET THE MOST ACCURATE READING?

You can help ensure that your TB test is valid by not scratching or putting a band-aid or any occlusive dressing over the test area. You can bathe, place clothing over the area, and engage in any other normal activity. **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU RETURN TO THE STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES 48 TO 72 HOURS AFTER THE TEST IS GIVEN FOR IT TO BE READ.** No one else can read the test for you.

## HOW MUCH DOES THE TB TEST COST?

There is a small charge for TB tests. Payment is required at the time of service. This covers the cost of the supplies used to administer the skin test. There is not a charge for a TB Reading.

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to the nurse **before** receiving your skin test.