

TB Screening

Tuberculosis screening must be validated by an initial two-step Tb screening (Mantoux skin test, PPD) and annual one-step screening thereafter. If there is a medically documented allergy to TB skin testing solution or history of a positive TB skin test, submission of an annual tuberculosis screening questionnaire and results of a chest x-ray within the past five years is required.

Two-step baseline TB skin test will be required for the following individuals: those who will be entering the annual TB testing program, those who have not been skin tested in the previous year and those who have historically had the BCG vaccine or who were born in a TB endemic country.

Rationale

Boosted reactions occur in people who have been infected with any species of mycobacterium or by past BCG vaccination. These persons develop a hypersensitivity to tuberculin which may gradually wane over the years. When skin is tested at this point, these persons may have a negative reaction. However, the stimulus of this skin test may recall the hypersensitivity, which increases the size of the reaction to a subsequent test. This may be falsely interpreted as a recent conversion from negative to positive.

Two-Step Screening means one must submit documentation of results of two TB tests. Step two must be completed no sooner than 7 days and within 21 days of the initial TB test.

GVSU prohibits individuals from interpreting their own TB test results or from asking faculty to make this determination. Only the test source may interpret the results and issue a final reading determination.

Optional TB testing includes:

1. QuantiFERON – TB Gold In-Tube test (GFT-GIT)
2. T-SPOT Tb Test (T-Spot)

These TB blood test (also called interferon-gamma release assays or IGRAs) measure how the immune system reacts to the bacteria that cause TB. An IGRA measures how strong a person's immune system reacts to TB bacteria by testing the person's blood in the laboratory. Positive IGA means that the person has been infected and additional test are needed to determine if the disease is latent or active.