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Health department ppd test

 There are two types of tests for tuberculosis (TB) infection: the TB blood test and the TB skin test. A positive test result for TB infection means you have TB germs in your body. If you test positive for TB infection, your health care provider will do other tests to determine if you have inactive TB (also called latent TB infection) or active TB disease. Getting tested and treated for TB can protect yourself, your family and friends, and your community. You may need a TB test if you have: Symptoms of TB disease Spent time with someone who has active TB disease Factors that put you at higher risk of developing active TB disease Employment, school, travel, or immigration health screening requirements You may need a TB test even if you do not feel sick. TB germs can live in your body for years without making you feel sick. This is called inactive TB. People with inactive TB do not feel sick and cannot spread TB germs to others. Keep Reading: Treating Tuberculosis If you are at higher risk of being infected with TB germs, you should get tested. You have a higher risk of being exposed to TB germs if you: Were born in or frequently travel to countries where TB is common, including some countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America Live or used to live in large group settings where TB is more common, such as homeless shelters, prisons, or jails Recently spent time with someone who has active TB disease Work in places where TB is more likely to spread, such as hospitals, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, and nursing homes Some people who have inactive TB never develop TB disease, and others with inactive TB develop active TB disease months or even years later when their immune system can no longer keep the TB germs from multiplying and growing in the body. Anyone can get TB, but some people who have inactive TB are more likely to develop TB disease than others. You have a higher risk of developing TB disease once infected if you: Have a weaker immune system because of certain medications or health conditions such as diabetes, cancer, or HIV Became infected with TB germs in the last two years Are a baby or young child, especially under five years of age Inject illegal drugs Are sick with other diseases that weaken the immune system Are elderly Were not treated correctly for TB in the past TB tests are generally not needed for people with a low risk of infection with TB germs. Keep Reading: Tuberculosis Risk Factors There are two types of tests for TB infection: the TB blood test and the TB skin test. Ask your health care provider which TB test is best for you. TB blood test TB blood tests (also called interferon-gamma release assays or IGRAs) use a blood sample to find out if you are infected with TB germs. The tests measure how your immune system reacts when a small amount of your blood is mixed with TB proteins. Many people born outside the United States have received the TB vaccine (also known as Bacille Calmette-Guérin or BCG).TB blood tests are the preferred test for people who have received the TB vaccine. Unlike the TB skin test, TB blood tests are not affected by BCG vaccination. Keep Reading: Testing for Tuberculosis: Blood TestTB skin test For the TB skin test, a health care provider uses a small needle to put some testing material under the skin. You will need to return to your health care provider in two to three days to see if there is a reaction. Keep Reading: Testing for Tuberculosis: Skin TestOther tests may be needed Your health care provider will do other tests to determine if you have inactive TB or active TB disease if you have a: Positive TB blood test or TB skin test result Negative TB blood test or TB skin test result, but you have symptoms of active TB disease These tests may include a chest x-ray, and a test of the sputum (phlegm) you cough up. Keep Reading: Diagnosing Tuberculosis You can get tested for TB at the health department or at your health care provider's office. Your health care provider will choose the TB test that is best for you. Public and private health care plans may cover TB testing costs. Contact your state or local TB program about getting tested for TB. A positive test result for TB infection means you have TB germs in your body. Your health care provider will do other tests to determine if you have inactive TB or active TB disease. These tests may include a chest x-ray, and a test of the sputum (phlegm) you cough up. A negative test result for TB infection means inactive TB or active TB disease is unlikely, but your health care provider may do more tests, especially if: You have symptoms of active TB disease, like coughing, chest pain, fever, weight loss, or tiredness. You have HIV. You were recently exposed to TB germs. Keep Reading: Diagnosing Tuberculosis If your TB blood test or TB skin test is positive, you have TB germs in your body. Your health care provider will do other tests to determine if you have inactive TB or active TB disease. Once you have a positive TB blood test or TB skin test result, you may still have a positive test result on future TB tests. This includes even after you finish taking all of your TB medicine for inactive TB or active TB disease.Ask your health care provider for a written record of your positive TB test result. This will be helpful if you are asked to have another TB test in the future. Keep Reading: Diagnosing Tuberculosis Risk factorsTest procedureResults Understanding the PPD skin test and tuberculosisA purified protein derivative (PPD) skin test is a test that determines if you have tuberculosis (TB).TB is a serious infection, usually of the lungs, caused by the bacteria Mycobacterium tuberculosis. This bacteria spreads when you breathe in the air exhaled by a person infected with TB. The bacteria can remain inactive in your body for years. When your immune system becomes weakened, TB can become active and produce symptoms such as: feverweight losscoughingnight sweatsIf TB doesn’t respond to antibiotics, it’s referred to as drug-resistant TB. This is a serious public health problem in many regions of the world, including Southeast Asia and Africa.When TB infects your body, it becomes extra sensitive to certain elements of the bacteria, such as the purified protein derivative. A PPD test checks your body’s current sensitivity. This will tell doctors whether or not you have TB.TB is a highly contagious disease. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that TB is second only to HIV and AIDS as the greatest global killer. However, the disease is relatively rare in the United States. Most people in the United States infected with TB don’t show symptoms.You should get a PPD skin test if you work in the healthcare field. All healthcare workers must be routinely screened for TB.You also need a PPD skin test if:you’ve been around someone with TByou have a weakened immune system due to certain medications such as steroids or certain diseases such as cancer, HIV, or AIDSA doctor or nurse will swab the skin of your inner forearm with alcohol. You’ll then get a small shot that contains PPD under the top layer of your skin. You may feel a slight sting. A bump or small welt will form, which usually goes away in a few hours.After 48 to 72 hours, you must return to your doctor’s office. A nurse or other medical professional will check the area where you received the shot to see if you’ve had any reaction to the PPD. There’s a very small risk of severe redness and swelling on your arm, especially if you’ve had a previous positive PPD test and you’re having the test again.If the area of skin where you received the PPD injection isn’t swollen or is only slightly swollen 48 to 72 hours after the injection, the test results are negative. A negative result means that you most likely haven’t been infected with the bacteria that cause TB. The amount of swelling may be different for children, people with HIV, the elderly, and others at high risk.A small reaction, called an induration, at the site of the test (5 to 9 millimeters of firm swelling) is a positive result in people who:take steroidshave HIVhave received an organ transplanthave a weakened immune systemhave been in close contact with someone who has active TBhave changes on a chest X-ray that appear to be the result of a previous TB infectionMembers of these high-risk groups may require treatment, but a positive result doesn’t always mean that they have active TB. More tests are necessary to confirm the diagnosis.Larger reactions (10 mm of swelling or more) are a positive result in people who:have had a negative PPD skin test in the past two yearshave diabetes, kidney failure, or other conditions that increase their TB riskare healthcare workersare intravenous drug usersare immigrants who’ve come from a country that’s had a high TB rate in the past five yearsare under age 4are infants, children, or adolescents who’ve been exposed to high-risk adultslive in certain group settings, such as prisons, nursing homes, and homeless sheltersFor people without a known risk factor for TB, a 15 mm or larger firm swelling at the injection site indicates a positive reaction.People who received a bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine against TB may have a false-positive reaction to the PPD test. Some countries outside the United States that have a high prevalence of TB give the BCG vaccine. Many people born outside of the United States have had the BCG vaccine, but it’s not given in the United States due to its questionable effectiveness.Your doctor will follow up on positive results with a chest X-ray, a CT scan, and a sputum test that looks for active TB in the lungs.The PPD skin test isn’t foolproof. Some people infected with the bacteria that cause TB may not have any reaction to the test. Diseases such as cancer and medications like steroids and chemotherapy that weaken your immune system may also cause a false-negative result.