Health Information Sheet: 2-Step Tuberculosis Skin Test (PPD)

The CDC states that "The Mantoux tuberculin test is performed by placing an intradermal injection of 0.1 ml of purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin containing 5 tuberculin units (TU) into the inner surface of the forearm. The reaction to the Mantoux test should be read by a trained health care worker 48 to 72 hours after the injection. Patients should never be allowed to read their own tuberculin skin test results."

If there is no documentation of a negative PPD test within the last year then 2-step testing is required.

Two-Step Testing
Two-step testing should be used for the initial skin testing of adults who will be retested periodically, such as health care workers.

Two-step testing is used to reduce the likelihood that a boosted reaction will be misinterpreted as a recent infection. If the reaction to the first test is classified as negative, a second test should be done a minimum of 1 week but no more than 12 months later. 2 skin tests completed within a 12 month period are acceptable as two-step PPD. If a PPD skin test is deemed positive, no further skin testing should be done and an alternate method of annual screening will be initiated.

Alternate testing for Two-Step: QuantiFERON Gold blood test

Our Health Science students are required to be tested for TB on an annual basis.

Student Health Services provides on campus PPD skin testing clinics monthly to help facilitate compliance with this annual requirement.