

**Mt. San Antonio College**  
**STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES**

**TITLE: TWO-STEP PPD SKIN TESTING**

**GUIDELINES:**

- I. Two-step PPD skin testing will be provided upon patient request.
  - two separate tests, 7 days apart (four appointments)
  - injection on day one, read in 48- 72 hours
  - injection #2 on day 7, and read on day 9 or 10
2. Two-step testing should be used as an initial TB screen. Subsequent TB screening after two-step testing requires only one PPD test. If the patient can produce proof of a negative PPD test within 12 months, there is no need for two-step testing.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. A PPD skin test will be placed on day one. (See Tuberculosis Screening)
2. The test may be read at:
  - a. 48 to 72 hours
    - i. If induration is less than 10mm\*, a second test will be placed 1-3 weeks after the first.
    - ii. If induration is greater than 10mm\*, no further skin testing is necessary. Refer for chest x-ray.
3. The second test is read 48 to 72 hours after placement.
  - If induration is less than 10mm, the test is documented as negative and no further screening is necessary.
  - If induration is more than 10mm\*, the test is documented as positive. Refer for chest x-ray.
4. An asymptomatic patient with a negative chest x-ray report may begin employment.

\*Induration greater than 5mm is considered a positive reaction in the following:

- Persons known to have, or suspected of having, HIV infection.
- Close contacts of a person with infectious TB.
- TB suspects.
- Those with chest x-ray findings suggestive of previous TB and who have received inadequate or no treatment.
- Those who use injected drugs.
- Organ transplant recipients
- Immunosuppressed individuals: taking equivalent of > 15mg/d of prednisone for > 1 month; taking other immunosuppressive drugs for conditions such as cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, etc.

**REFERENCES:**

ACHA Tuberculosis Guidelines Task Force. Tuberculosis Screening and Targeted Testing of College and University Students. April 2016.

Francis J. Curry National Tuberculosis Center, "Frequently Asked Questions"  
County of Los Angeles, TBC Program Manual, 2003 Edition.