

Tuberculosis (TB) Assessments

Frequently Asked Questions

Why must I be assessed for Tuberculosis (TB)?

The Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MOSH) and, therefore, the Joint Commission (JC), requires an annual TB assessment for individuals who come in contact with patients or patient care areas. Individuals who meet this criterion and have not had an annual TB assessment should obtain one immediately. Failure to do so could affect the Hospital adversely in the upcoming Joint Commission Survey.

What is included in the assessment process?

The appropriate TB assessment will be determined by your previous history. If you had a negative TB skin test in the past, you are required to have a TB skin test. If you had a previously positive skin test, you will not be given another skin test. Instead, the Occupational Health Services (OHS) staff will review symptoms of TB with you or send you for a chest x-ray if needed. The tuberculin skin test is an injection (usually in the arm) which must be read 48 to 72 hours later.

What if I only seldom come in contact with patients or enter patient care areas?

If there is ANY chance that you will either come in contact with patients or enter patient care areas, you must be assessed.

For medical reasons (including previously testing positive) I cannot have a skin test, what do I need to do to be compliant?

You must still be assessed through OHS annually. As indicated above, this assessment may include: a brief history, physical examination, and chest x-ray.

I had BCG in the past and I know I will be positive. How do I get assessed?

History of BCG vaccine does not determine how you will be assessed. Previous skin tests results are used to make this determination. If you have not had a previous skin test, you will be given a skin test to obtain a baseline. If you have had a previous skin test as an adult, the result of that test will determine what we will do next. Consequently, documentation of previous test results will be helpful in order to make this determination.

I know I have been assessed before; do I still need to be assessed again?

This is an ANNUAL requirement. If you are not sure of when your last TB assessment was, please call OHS.

Can I read my own skin test?

No one is allowed to read their own skin test. For purposes of documentation, the preferred readers are the OHS staff. OHS will accept readings performed by healthcare professionals skilled at evaluating tuberculin skin tests. However, for any reactive or positive readings OHS staff must confirm within the 48 to 72 hour read period.

Tuberculosis (TB) Assessments Continued

Frequently Asked Questions

Is assessment mandatory for University employees as well?

If there is ANY chance that you will either come in contact with patients or enter patient care areas in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, you must be assessed.

The majority of my time is spent off of the main medical campus site; do I still need to be assessed?

If there is ANY chance that you will either come in contact with patients or enter patient care areas of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, you must be assessed.

Where can I be assessed?

TB assessments are offered through Occupational Health. Occupational Health Services will provide assessments at the following locations and times:

Occupational Health Services - 98 North Broadway - Mon. through Fri - 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Occupational Health Services - Phipps Room 351 - Mon. through Fri. - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hope Forest Lobby (CMSC 1) - Every Wednesday - 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the month of June.

How can I determine if I am compliant with the TB assessment requirement?

You can contact Occupational Health at the East Baltimore campus @ 410-955-6211 with any questions regarding your TB assessment status.