

For information about TB testing, prevention and treatment in Anne Arundel County, call 410-222-7256 or visit our website: www.aahealth.org.



Anne Arundel County Department of Health

TB testing is performed
at the following locations:

Glen Burnie Health Center: 410-222-6633

Parole Health Center: 410-222-4438

Adapted from the brochure, "What you need to know about TB"
developed by the New York City Department of Health Division of TB Control



TB Testing

The services and facilities of Anne Arundel County Department of Health are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, political affiliation or opinion, national origin, age, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability.

TB Testing: What You Need to Know



The Anne Arundel County Department of Health offers two types of TB tests: Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) and QuantiFERON-TB Gold (QFT). TST is a skin test that shows if you have tuberculosis bacteria in your body. The QFT is a blood test with a positive or negative lab result that diagnoses TB infection. It is important to know if you have TB infection because it can cause TB disease, a serious disease that can damage your lungs and other organs.

Tell me more about the TST and QFT.

The TST:

- The TST is a small injection of testing solution just under the skin on your forearm by a specially trained health professional.
- TST results should be read by a trained health professional 48-72 hours after placement.
- If you have a positive skin test, sometimes the test site may swell and feel uncomfortable. The swelling should go away in two weeks.
- The skin on the test site may also itch. If this happens, put a cold compress on the test site.
- Never scratch the test site or put a bandage on it.

The QuantiFERON-TB Gold Test:

- A single blood test that yields positive or negative lab results.
- Not recommended for children under 5 years of age. Children under 5 years old will have a TST done.
- May need to return to review lab report.

“A Decision to Test is a Decision to Treat.”

The meaning of the test results:

Most people with TB bacteria in their bodies will have a “positive” TST or QFT. If you have a positive result, you will need more tests (such as a chest X-ray) to see if the TB bacteria are causing active disease in your lungs. People infected with TB in their bodies often need to take medicine to help kill the TB bacteria. If you have a “negative” test, then you most likely do not have TB germs in your body. However, you may need a second test 8-10 weeks after your last contact with an infectious person.

Who should get tested?

Per the current recommendations from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the TB Program performs targeted tuberculosis testing for the following high-risk groups who live in Anne Arundel County.

1. Any foreign-born resident from a TB endemic area.
2. Residents who have lived in a TB endemic area for more than one year.
3. Contacts of active TB cases.
4. Residents who are HIV-positive.
5. Persons referred from detention centers and designated Department of Health programs.
6. Immigration groups: Class B waivers, refugees and asylees.
7. Suspected TB patients who bring a prescription from their private medical provider.

What if I had the BCG vaccine?

The BCG vaccine protects children from severe TB disease, such as meningitis. People who have received BCG can still become infected with TB. The QFT may be the best test for people who have had BCG.

If you have had a positive skin test in the past or if you have recently received any live vaccines, please let your nurse know.