

# Frequently Asked Questions???

## Employee TB Testing at RUSD

### What is a TB test?

“TB” is short for a disease called tuberculosis. The “TB test” is a simple skin test that can tell if you have the TB germ in your body. A small needle is used to place a testing fluid under the skin. The testing fluid is called Purified Protein Derivative or PPD. PPD is not a vaccine and does not contain any live organisms or anything that can make you ill. The injection site will need to be examined by a nurse 48 to 96 hours after the injection.

### How often is a TB clearance needed?

A TB Skin Test is needed for at time of hire and then every four years thereafter.

If a chest x-ray report is submitted for clearance, it is needed for hire and then every four years thereafter. A person who submits an initial chest x-ray report may then submit a TB risk factor questionnaire annually in lieu of obtaining a chest x-ray.

### Is TB testing safe during pregnancy?

Yes, the TB skin test is considered both valid and safe to use throughout pregnancy and during breast feeding.

### How does a person get TB?

TB exposure can happen at anytime and anywhere if you come in contact with a person who has an active TB infection. A person with an active TB infection is able to spread the germ by coughing, sneezing, talking, or singing. The TB germ is spread through airborne droplets or mist from one person to another.

Many people who have been exposed to the TB germ never develop active TB disease. Most people are healthy enough for their body to fight off a TB infection. If they are exposed to the TB germ their body may stop the TB germ from causing illness.

However, people who have a weakened immune system, or who are very young or very old, may not be able to fight off the TB germ, and the exposure could lead to active TB disease.

### What are the dates and times that I can visit the district clinic to get a TB test done?

When an employee is notified by **referral letter** from the Personnel Department that their TB test is due, the employee should bring the referral letter to the RUSD Health Center Monday through Friday, anytime between 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm to obtain a TB skin test.

The return schedule for obtain the results of a TB test are as follows:

<b>TB test given:</b>	<b>TB test return date(s)</b>
Monday	Wednesday, Thursday
Tuesday	Thursday, Friday
Wednesday	Friday <u>only</u>
Thursday	Monday <u>only</u>
Friday	Monday, Tuesday

Any employee who wishes to have the TB skin test done through their own **personal health care provider** may do so. However, you must submit a copy of the results to the RUSD Personnel Department.

### **Why are employees required to have TB tests and students are not?**

California Education Code 49406 and Health and Safety Code 121525 mandate that all school district employees be tested for TB. Currently, there are no provisions under the California Education Code or other state law that require TB testing of students for school entry in Riverside County. Local Health Departments are authorized to mandate TB testing of students under California Health and Safety Code Sections 41327 and 41329. The Riverside County Department of Public Health elected to rescind the local mandate requiring TB testing of students for entry into K-12 schools in 2007. This decision was based on local data regarding the incidence of TB as well as the latest research regarding TB testing among school age children.

Students entering preschool are screened for TB due to Head Start and State licensing requirements.

### **Why are volunteers tested for TB?**

California Health and Safety Code 121545 states that school district volunteers must be tested for TB. All volunteers are encouraged to obtain the TB test from their **personal health care provider**. If a volunteer does not have health insurance or the means to obtain a TB Test he or she may be given a referral to obtain the test at the RUSD Health Center. A volunteer must obtain a Health Services Clinic Referral from the school in order to be seen at the RUSD Health Center for a TB test.

### **What does a positive TB test indicate?**

A positive TB skin test indicates that the person has had an exposure to the TB germ at some point in time. The person is then referred for a chest x-ray in order to determine if there is active TB disease.

Reporting a positive TB test to the health department is required by law in every state. Early reporting is important for the control of TB.

### **Why do some employees submit a questionnaire in lieu of taking a TB skin test?**

Any person who has had a positive TB skin test, followed by a normal chest x-ray, is determined to be free of active TB disease. A person with a positive TB test history may complete an annual TB symptom screening questionnaire that is reviewed by the Lead Nurse to obtain a TB clearance.

### **How does the District get notified of the TB Test result?**

It is the employee's responsibility to provide the Personnel Department with a copy of the TB test result as soon as possible.

The TB test result from RUSD is the yellow card that is given to you at the time of the return visit. Please keep this card for future reference during the four years that the card is valid.

The Personnel Department must receive a copy of the TB test result card. You may deliver the results to the Personnel Department by hand at the District Office on 14<sup>th</sup> street, or a scanned copy of the result can be e-mailed or faxed to Personnel, or a hard copy of the result may be placed in the district mail addressed to the Personnel Department.

As a courtesy, Health Services will place a copy of the result in the district mail for you from the CRC, which is sent in once a week.