

TB Services

Most primary care doctor's offices and urgent care clinics can give TB skin tests.

Wake County Human Services Public Health Center provides the following TB services:

- **TB tests** are given to people who are at high risk (see Who Needs A TB Test)
- **Chest x-rays** are given to people with a documented positive TB test or with a healthcare provider referral for TB screening.
- **Follow-up interviews** are done for persons with a documented positive test and a negative chest x-ray.
- **TB medicine** is given to people with LTBI to prevent TB disease. People with TB disease can get medicines to treat TB. TB medicines and other TB testing must be ordered by the Wake County Human Services TB doctor.

Call 250-3898 Monday –Friday from 8:30 am to 5:15 pm for information on testing times and appointments for TB services.



TB Control
10 Sunnybrook Road, P.O. Box 14049
Raleigh, North Carolina 27610
919-250-3898
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Do I Need A TB Test?

**Information about
Tuberculosis Testing
and Services**

**Wake County Human
Services
TB Control
10 Sunnybrook Road,
P.O. Box 14049
Raleigh, North Carolina
27610**

About Tuberculosis (TB)

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious disease that can damage the lungs or other parts of the body like the brain, kidneys, or spine.

TB is spread through the air when someone who is sick with **active TB disease** of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, sings or speaks. Others can become infected by breathing the germs into their lungs.

TB is **not** spread by shaking hands, kissing, sex, sharing glasses, plates, utensils, clothing, sheets or furniture. TB is not spread through the air outside.



TB is spread through the air when someone who is sick with TB disease coughs, sneezes, sings or speaks.

Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI)

Most people who become infected with TB do not get sick. Their bodies are able to fight the TB germs. This is known as **latent tuberculosis infection or LTBI**. People with LTBI do not feel sick and do not have symptoms of TB. People with LTBI cannot spread TB to others.

TB Disease

A person can have LTBI for weeks, months, or years because their body fights the TB germs. If their body cannot fight the TB germs, they get **active TB disease**. People with active TB disease don't feel well and can spread TB to others.

Medications to prevent and to treat TB disease are available at no charge at your local health department. Untreated TB disease can cause death.

Who Needs A TB Test

You should have a TB test if you :

- have spent time with someone who has (or is suspected of having) active TB disease.
- have HIV or another condition that weakens the immune system. This increases the risk of getting TB disease.
- are from an area of the world where TB is common (most countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Russia).
- are planning to spend more than 3 months in one of the areas of the world listed above. You should be tested before leaving on your trip and 8 weeks after returning.
- live or work somewhere in the United States where TB disease is more common (homeless shelter, migrant farm camp, prison or jail, some nursing homes).
- inject illegal drugs or use crack cocaine.

TB Tests

There are two tests that show if someone is infected with TB:

- A TB skin test. A small amount of test fluid is injected under the skin on the lower part of the arm. A trained health care worker must look at your arm for a reaction within 48 to 72 hours. Health care providers use this test most often.
- A TB blood test. Blood is drawn from the arm to measure the way the immune system reacts to TB bacteria.

A positive skin test or blood test means that you have TB germs in your body. A positive test does not show if you have LTBI or active TB disease. You will need a chest x-ray and other tests to find out if you have TB disease.