Questions and Information about TB Testing

1. What is a Tuberculosis (TB) skin test?

   A Tuberculosis (TB) skin test, also known as a Mantoux test or PPD, is done to see if you have been infected with Tuberculosis (TB) in the past. A positive Mantoux test may indicate that you have TB bacteria in your body that you may not be aware of. Tuberculosis (TB) learn more (MyHealth.Alberta.ca).

   TB skin test must be done within 12 months of program start date. Example: Student started program in the Winter 2021 term (January start) and may submit TB testing from January 2020 as the latest.

2. How many appointments will I need?

   A TB skin test requires two appointments, spaced 48 to 72 hours apart. In the first appointment, a small amount of solution is injected under the top layer of skin on your arm. At the second appointment, a nurse checks to see if there has been a skin reaction to that solution.

3. What if I have a positive TB skin test?

   A positive result, according to Alberta Health Services standards, is 10 mm or greater. Students, who have tested for TB previously, will be not be tested again for TB and will need to provide a Chest X-Ray within the last 6 months of the program start date.

   A Chest X-Ray without written documentation of previous positive TB skin test in millimeters will not be accepted.

4. What if I have a history of BCG vaccine outside of Canada?

   In case if you had a history of BCG (Bacillus Calmette Guerin) vaccine outside of Canada, there is a possibility that your TB skin test may show false positive result (10 mm or greater), so you may need to complete TB Chest X-ray within six months of program start date.