



Whatcom County Health Department

Tuberculosis Program
(360) 778-6100 Fax (360) 778-6101

Positive TB Blood Tests (QFT) Identifying High-Risk Groups

Positive Tests: Assess if **high-risk medical conditions** or **TB risk factors** are present for direct referral to WCHD TB Program for evaluation and treatment.



Criteria for Health Department TB Referral:

- **Symptoms of TB disease:** Cough, fatigue, weight loss, fever, night sweats, hemoptysis **REPORT IMMEDIATELY!**
- **Abnormal Chest X-ray** (with or without symptoms)
- **Recent Conversion** -- Change from negative to positive TB test in ≤ 2 years (Recent infection)
- **Contacts** to a known case of Active TB disease
- **Chronic kidney disease**
- **Immune suppressed** or on *immunosuppressant therapy* including biologics, TNF blockers
(check if on treatment for: Rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, severe psoriasis, other immune disorders)
- **Recent Immigrants** without insurance or access to care
- Medically complex patients by provider request & consultation

*Please call to discuss an individual's TB risk status with a TB nurse *before referral* at **778-6100**.

STOP TB

TB Infection
If your body is strong it can stop the TB germs from growing.
The germs are in your body, but don't grow and don't make you sick. This is called TB infection .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You cannot spread TB to others. • You will not feel sick. • You can have a positive skin test. • Your chest x-ray might look normal.
You can take medicine so that the germs in your body do not grow and make you sick with TB disease. TB medicine is free!

TB Disease
If your body is weak, it cannot stop the TB germs from growing. Your body can be weak if you are sick with another disease, under stress or just getting older.
The germs keep growing and make you sick. This is called TB disease . You can spread TB to others. You can feel sick with:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Cough (for more than 3 weeks) • Feel tired • Weight loss • Night sweats • Chest pain
You must take medicine to treat the TB. Your doctor will decide how long you need to take the medicine. TB medicine is free!