

## Effective August 02, 2019: Tuberculin (TB) Skin Test Eligibility Requirements Have Changed

Due to the recent nationwide shortage of Aplisol and Tubersol, the two substances that are used during tuberculin (TB) skin tests to help diagnose latent *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (latent TB) infection and disease, the Forsyth County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) will only offer tuberculin (TB) skin tests to persons who are considered to be high risk individuals. It is unclear when this shortage will end and supplies will return to normal.

Per guidelines from both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the North Carolina Tuberculosis Control Program, FCDPH will not offer or perform tuberculin (TB) skin tests to persons that are requesting the test as part of a routine employee screening or infection control program considered to be low risk. These include, but are not limited to, child care facility staff, healthcare workers, teachers, bus drivers, and food service employees.

High risk individuals that are approved for tuberculin (TB) skin testing at FCDPH are as follows:

- Patients and staff of licensed long-term care facilities upon initial employment or admission to the facility. Annual tests will not be administered to this risk group.
- Staff of adult day care facilities that provide for people with HIV or AIDS upon initial employment. Annual tests will not be administered to this risk group.
- Staff of homeless shelters upon initial employment. Annual tests will not be administered to this risk group.
- Persons starting Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) medications, such as Humira, Remicade, and Enbril.
- Refugees

Persons in the following risk groups may be eligible to receive a tuberculin skin test at FCDPH if it is their initial visit for health care services in the Immunizations Clinic:

- Persons who have been recently exposed to people with tuberculosis disease,
- Those born in or frequently traveling to countries where tuberculosis disease is common or of high incidence,
- Those living in large group settings such as homeless shelters,
- Illicit drug users,
- Migrant farm workers,
- Persons with increased, significant health risks should they become infected with tuberculosis disease, such as people with diabetes mellitus, chronic renal failure, head and neck cancers, or gastric bypass surgery patients.

Anyone that is administered a tuberculin (TB) skin test without Medicaid are expected to pay the tuberculin skin test fee of \$25.00 prior to receiving the skin test. Questions about eligibility for tuberculin skin tests can be directed to FCDPH at (336) 703-3324.