Tuberculosis (TB) transmission has been documented in health care settings where workers and patients come in contact with people who have TB disease. Periodic testing of healthcare workers is recommended as part of a TB Infection Control Plan and may be required by state regulations.

2-Step Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) / Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) Information Sheet

The Tuberculin Skin Test (TST), or Purified Protein Derivative (PPD, is a screening method developed to evaluate an individual’s status for active Tuberculosis (TB) or Latent TB infection. The 2-Step TST/PPD is recommended for initial skin testing of adults who will be periodically retested, such as healthcare or childcare workers. A 2-step is defined as two TST/PPD’s done within 3-months of each other. The optimal time for testing would be to complete the 2 TST/PPD’s within 1-4 weeks of each other. In some persons who have had an unknown, past exposure with M. Tuberculosis, their body’s ability to react to a TST/PPD may wane over time. When given a TST/PPD years after exposure, these persons may have a (false) negative reaction to the first test. However, this first TST/PPD may stimulate the immune system so that when a second TST/PPD is given, the body is then able to produce a true positive response, indicating a past infection. History of BCG vaccine is not an exception to the 2-step TST/PPD.

Information provided from www.umassmed.edu

Each TST/PPD needs to be read within 48-72 hours after it is given. For this reason, Winslow Health Center cannot administer TST/PPD’s on Thursdays as we are not open on weekends.

***Students working with Meadville Medical Center (MMC), please note***

MMC requires testing on an annual basis and that the 2-step TST/PPD be completed over a 3-week period.

For all others who need to be tested for exposure to TB, a 1-step TST/PPD will suffice.

Please call WHC at (814) 332-4355 to schedule your TST/PPD.