

# Tuberculin Skin Test Reaction

## What does a Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) reaction mean?

If a reaction to your TST develops it may mean you have been exposed to TB bacteria (or germs). A reaction may also be due to a previous TB vaccination (BCG).

## Does this mean I have TB?

This does NOT mean that you necessarily have TB disease. Only a small number of people with an abnormal TST will go on to develop TB disease.

## Am I infectious?

No, you are not infectious unless you have TB disease in your lungs.

## What happens next?

An appointment will be made for you to see a Chest Clinic doctor. This appointment is important to check for any signs of early TB disease. The doctor will ask about your health and any risk factors for TB. At this appointment a urine test and chest x-ray will be done.

Once TB disease is ruled out, you and the doctor may decide to start preventive treatment to reduce your risk of developing TB disease in the future. The preventive treatment can have side-effects and is not suitable for everyone.

Alternately, you and the doctor may decide to monitor your health by watching out for early signs of TB disease. This may mean returning to the Chest Clinic several times over the next year or two to have another chest x-ray and a health check.

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## For more information

**Royal Adelaide Hospital, Chest Clinic**  
**SA TB Services**  
**Telephone: (08) 7117 2967**  
**Monday-Friday, 8:45am-4:45pm**