



Please complete and **return this form** to school, even if you decide not to consent for your child to have the Mantoux skin test at school. It is a legal requirement for consent to be obtained before your child is given a Mantoux skin test and for release of information as discussed below.

Mantoux Skin Test

(Tuberculin skin test)

In the Northern Territory students who are either:

- born overseas or
- have a parent who was born overseas

Are offered a Mantoux skin test regardless of whether they have received a BCG vaccination previously, this is a simple and safe procedure to identify if a person has been previously infected with the tuberculosis (TB) germ.

Information and Consent

■ What is TB disease?

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease which usually affects the lungs but can affect other parts of the body. It is spread from person to person through the air by droplet infection. Some people breathe in the TB germs and become sick with TB disease quickly, whereas in others, the TB germs lie dormant, often for many years (latent TB infection), before flaring up and causing a person to become sick later on in life. TB disease is totally curable and can also be prevented when the dormant (latent) stage is identified and treated.

■ Why do a Mantoux skin test?

The Mantoux skin test is a simple and safe way to determine whether your child has breathed in TB germs in the past. It is not a vaccine and it doesn't tell us if your child has TB disease.

■ How is a Mantoux skin test given?

A small injection is given just under the top layer of skin on the inner forearm.

Any skin reaction (lump) is measured 3 days later (with a range of 2-5 days) and the result recorded.

■ What about side effects?

Side effects are uncommon. The site of the injection can get itchy for several days. It is best not to scratch the arm, a cold compress can help relieve any itching.

Some people may develop a sizeable reaction, which may cause some minor discomfort. This swelling should disappear in about 2 weeks.

■ What happens after the Mantoux skin test is read?

If the skin lump is below a pre-determined size the result of the test is negative, and no further testing will be needed at this time.

If the skin lump is above a pre-determined size, your child has a positive test and you will receive a referral to the TB Clinic for your child. A positive test **does not** mean your child has TB disease, only that further evaluation (chest X-ray and physical examination) may be necessary. The TB doctor may discuss the possibility of taking medication to prevent further development of TB disease, by treating dormant (latent) TB infection.

For further information contact the TB clinic in your region:

Darwin **8922 8044**; Katherine **8973 9049**; Alice Springs **8951 7549**; Nhulunbuy **8987 0357**; Tennant Creek **8962 4259**.

Any severe reactions to previous vaccines ☐ No ☐ Yes - list _____

- Has had a past history of tuberculosis
- Is known to have had a positive Mantoux skin test result in the past
- Has a fever of 38.5°C or above on the day of the test
- Has had a live vaccine in the previous 4 weeks (i.e. Measles, Chickenpox).

For further information on privacy laws, visit: <https://infocomm.nt.gov.au/about-us/the-information-act>

Approved for use in 2021