



Building healthier lives



University Hospitals Birmingham  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Occupational Health Service

## Tuberculosis screening for healthcare workers

Tuberculosis (TB) remains common in the UK. You will come into contact with TB when working in healthcare. You have about double the risk of catching TB compared to someone not working in healthcare.

Employees must undergo a pre-placement health screening to check for TB immunity and TB infectivity.

### BCG scar check

If you have had a BCG (tuberculosis) vaccine we will need to check that you have a scar or documentary evidence of vaccination.

If you do not have a BCG scar then you will need a Mantoux test.

### Mantoux skin test

A small quantity of testing solution is injected into the inside of your forearm to assess your sensitivity to tuberculin protein.

The test area is monitored 72 hours later in the Occupational Health department

- The skin test may cause mild itching and swelling around the injection site
- Please keep the site clean and do not cover with dressing or apply any creams or lotions

If you do not react to the Mantoux test you will need a BCG vaccination.

If you do react you will require further investigations, please read below for more information.

### IGRA blood test

If you have a positive reaction to the Mantoux test you will require a blood test called an IGRA. This measures a person's immune reactivity to mycobacterium tuberculosis.

The result of the blood test is usually available within a week. If the blood test is positive this may indicate you have either active TB or latent TB. You will require a chest x-ray and you will be referred on to a Consultant who specialises in the treatment in TB.

### Latent TB

Latent TB is where you have been infected with the TB bacteria but do not have any symptoms of active disease. You are not infectious but you may require treatment. Treatment for latent TB is usually recommended for healthcare workers, regardless of their age.

### Active TB

If you have symptoms of TB or your IGRA is positive then you will be required to have a chest x-ray prior to starting work. If your chest x-ray shows active TB you will need to have had started treatment for at least two weeks before being able to start work.

### Feedback

We are keen to hear your comments and ideas about improving the service. Please email the department with any comments.

If you have any concerns or feedback please email Occupational Health via

✉ [OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk)

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## How to refer

To request any of the services offered by Occupational Health or to find out more, please contact your local hospital below;

### **Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (Heritage Building)**

3rd Floor North Block (South Corridor),  
Mindelsohn Way, Birmingham, B15 2TH

**Tel:** 0121 371 7170

**Email:** [OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk)

### **Heartlands Hospital**

Stratford House, Bordesley Green Road,  
Birmingham, B9 5SS

**Tel:** 0121 424 3004

**Email:** [OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk)

### **Good Hope Hospital**

23 Bedford Road, Sutton Coldfield,  
West Midlands, B75 6BE

**Tel:** 0121 424 3004

**Email:** [OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk)

### **Solihull Hospital**

Lode Lane, Solihull, B91 2JL

**Tel:** 0121 424 3004

**Email:** [OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk](mailto:OHEnquiries@uhb.nhs.uk)