



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
MENTAL HYGIENE**

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nyc.gov/health

A new and improved test for tuberculosis (TB) infection

What is Quantiferon?

We now offer a blood test for TB screening. It is called Quantiferon. For the Quantiferon test we check your blood to see if there are TB germs in your body. This is unlike the skin test where we inject a small amount of test fluid under your skin.

How does this blood test work?

To do the test, a small amount of blood will be taken from you. This blood will be sent to the laboratory and tested for TB infection. In a couple of days your results will be ready. You may need to come back to the clinic to pick-up your results.

The Quantiferon test will be positive if you have the TB germ. It can tell the difference between infection with the TB germ and the BCG vaccine. With the TB skin test we can't always tell the difference.

What does a result from the blood test tell us?

- A **negative** result usually means that **you *do not have* TB germs in your body** at this time. Sometimes, the test may not work if the TB germs are too new in your body, or if your immune system is weak (for example, if you have HIV). In this case, you may need a chest X-ray and a medical exam. Your doctor will tell you if you need more tests or exams.
- A **positive** test result usually means **you *have* TB germs in your body**. You will need a chest X-ray and medical exam to tell whether you have latent TB or active TB.
- **Rarely** the test does not work. This can happen for different reasons. In this case you will need to get another TB test.

Please feel free to ask the person performing the test for more information.