

AFTER THE TEST

IF YOUR TUBERCULIN TEST IS POSITIVE: Get a chest X-ray now and later ones as often as your doctor advises. He may suggest that you take some pills every day for a while to make sure that the inactive germs do not become active and cause disease.

IF YOUR TUBERCULIN TEST IS NEGATIVE: Ask the doctor how often to repeat the test. Tuberculosis spreads from person to person. If you check your health regularly, you and everyone around you will have a better chance of staying free from TB.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

County of San Diego
Department of Health Services
(619) 560-3092



**AMERICAN
LUNG ASSOCIATION**
of San Diego and Imperial Counties

The "Christmas Seal" People

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THE TUBERCULIN TEST

This simple skin test can show whether you have any tuberculosis (TB) germs in your body.

HOW IT WORKS

All that's done is to put some harmless material called tuberculin into the surface layers of the skin, usually on the forearm.

WHAT IT SHOWS

The place on the skin where the test has been made will be examined a few days later. When the doctor or nurse has checked the size and thickness of the mark, you will be told one of three things:

YOUR TEST IS NEGATIVE. This means that your body contains no TB germs.

Or

YOUR TEST IS POSITIVE. This does not mean that you have tuberculosis . . . only that some germs have entered your body at one time or other. If your health is good, your body usually keeps those germs from doing any damage. However, you should have a chest X-ray to be sure. A chest X-ray is needed to show whether any harm has been done by the germs. A positive test by itself does not mean that others will catch the germs from you.

Or

YOUR TEST IS NOT DEFINITELY NEGATIVE OR POSITIVE. Sometimes this happens. The test should be repeated to make sure.