

Student Health Services

TWO – STEP PPD

Who should have 2-step PPD Testing?

Most TCNJ Nursing, Kinesiology & Health Sciences majors will need to have a 2-step PPD test done the first time they are tested. Then they will need just one PPD test each year throughout their college experience.

Why do healthcare providers need a 2-step PPD test the first time they are tested?

This is to evaluate if you have every been exposed to Tuberculosis in the past. Some people who have been exposed won't show a reaction on the first test. We stimulate or boost the person to see if they have a reaction which would indicate they were exposed in the past and have Latent TB infection.

How is a 2-Step PPD Test done?

2-Step PPD testing requires 4 separate visits to Student Health Services or our TB testing clinics.

- Visit # 1: PPD test is placed under the skin of your forearm (TB testing)
- Visit # 2: 48 – 72 hours later, the area of skin on your forearm if examined by the healthcare provider (TB reading)
- Visit # 3: One week later, Another PPD test is placed under the skin of your forearm (TB testing)
- Visit # 4: 48 – 72 hours later, the area of skin on your forearm is examined by a healthcare provider (TB reading).

Important Additional Information:

- 2-Step PPD tests must be done within 1-3 weeks apart to be considered valid.
- TB tests not read in 48-72 hours are considered invalid
- If you have had a positive TB skin test in the past you should not receive any further TB skin tests. Please call Student Health Services to schedule an in-person appointment for blood testing.

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/healthcareworkers.htm>