



**MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
Health Department**

**Gibbie Harris, MSPH, BSN  
Health Director**

**(704) 336-4700**

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** July 23, 2019

**From:** Meg Sullivan, MD, MPH  
MCHD Medical Director

**Re:** Nationwide Tuberculin Skin Test Shortage (TB Skin Test)



Because of a nationwide shortage of the products used for tuberculin skin tests (sometimes called PPDs), the Mecklenburg County Health Department (MCHD) will only give tuberculin skin tests to persons who may have tuberculosis (TB) or are at higher risk for developing TB.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the North Carolina Department of Tuberculosis Control Program have identified the following 4 groups as being at higher risk for having or developing TB:

- 1. Persons who have two or more of the following: cough lasting more than 3 weeks, coughing up blood, fever, night sweats, shortness of breath, chest pain, unintentional weight loss, unexplained tiredness.** (*Note: these signs/symptoms may not necessarily mean you have TB.*)
- 2. Persons who have moved from or spent more than one month in countries with increased rates of TB (Asia, Africa, Caribbean, Latin America, South America, Pacific Islands or Eastern Europe).**
- 3. Persons who have come in contact with an individual who has TB.**
- 4. Persons with current or planned immunosuppression** (*weakened immune system caused by certain medications, medical problems, etc.*)

If you fit one of these groups, call the MCHD TB Clinic at **980-314-9470** for further evaluation.

Currently MCHD is NOT able to offer tuberculin skin testing to persons at low risk for TB including those who require the test for employment or school purposes. These persons may include child care workers, teachers, food service staff and students. Low risk individuals may contact their healthcare provider or other community clinics to ask about testing.

*For Employers & School Administrators: Current guidelines from the CDC and the NC Tuberculosis Control Program do not recommend administrative tuberculin skin testing for low risk individuals or annual testing of health care workers in most settings. For information about testing guidelines, visit:*  
<https://www.mecknc.gov/HealthDepartment/CDControl/ForProviders/Pages/default.aspx>

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