

# Tuberculin Skin Test Interpretation

Skin test interpretation depends on:

1. The measurement in millimeters (mm) of the induration and
2. The person's risk of being infected with TB and/or progression to disease if infected.

The following three cut points should be used to determine whether the skin test reaction is *positive*. A measurement of 00 mm or anything below the defined cut point for each category is considered *negative*.

Induration of $\geq 5$ mm is considered positive in	Induration of $\geq 10$ mm is considered positive in	Induration of $\geq 15$ mm is considered positive in
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-positive persons</li> <li>• Recent contacts of TB case patients</li> <li>• Persons with fibrotic changes on chest radiograph consistent with prior TB</li> <li>• Patients with organ transplants and other immunosuppressed patients (Receiving the equivalent of 15 mg/d of prednisone for 1 month or more. Risk of TB in patients with corticosteroids increases with higher dose and longer duration.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent immigrants (i.e., within the last 5 years) from high-prevalence countries</li> <li>• Injection drug users</li> <li>• Residents and employees<sup>†</sup> of the following high-risk congregate settings: prisons and jails, nursing homes and other long-term facilities for the elderly, hospitals and other health care facilities, residential facilities for patients with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and homeless shelters</li> <li>• Mycobacteriology laboratory personnel</li> <li>• Persons with the following clinical conditions that place them at high risk: silicosis, diabetes mellitus, chronic renal failure, some hematologic disorders (e.g., leukemias and lymphomas), other specific malignancies (e.g., carcinoma of the head, neck, or lung), weight loss of 10% of ideal body weight, gastrectomy, and jejunioileal bypass</li> <li>• Children &lt; 4 years of age, or infants, children and adolescents exposed to adults at high-risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons with no known risk factors for TB</li> </ul>

<sup>†</sup> For persons who are otherwise at low risk for TB and who are tested at the start of employment, a reaction of  $\geq 15$  mm is considered positive.