



Student Health Services

WHY WE DO AN ANNUAL PPD

One annual assessment includes screening for the bacterial infection tuberculosis (Tb). There are two forms of Tb infection, active infection and latent infection (LTBI). With active infection, the symptoms are usually obvious: weight loss, coughing up blood and night sweats. There could, however, be active Tb with no cough. LTBI rarely shows symptoms, thus the need for annual screening. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that nearly 2 billion people worldwide have LTBI. The concern with this is that -- if left untreated -- it may activate later, causing active infection.

Screening is done via skin testing (TST) containing purified protein derivative (PPD), which is read by measuring induration, or a newer blood test called Interferon Gamma Release Assays (IGRAs).

Prior to matriculation, a two-step PPD or IGRA is required. The reason for an initial two-step, which is two skin tests one week apart, is to catch any delayed response to the initial PPD. All healthcare workers are considered positive if the induration measures 10 mm or more.

Anyone with a history of having the BCG vaccine will usually have a positive PPD but an IGRA will distinguish a true positive result.

Any positive test requires further screening, usually with a chest X-ray to rule out an active

UPDATES

- Annual health requirements (drug screening and Tb screening) are now due for all current M1, M2, and M3 students. Please reach out to Paul with any questions.
- SHS maintains a supply of over the counter medication including; Ibuprofen, Tylenol, Mucinex, Zyrtec, Visine eye drops, sterile saline and contact lens cases, cough drops, Midol, Emergen-C and TheraFlu. We plan to create a process to have these medications available at all campus locations. We are still working on a place to store these items at each campus.

THE STAFF

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<https://www.geisinger.edu/education/student-life/student-health-services>

Please call or stop in the office if interested in services ▶ ▶ ▶