

## WHAT IS A CONTACT INVESTIGATION?

People in the vicinity of a patient with contagious pulmonary tuberculosis are examined to see if they have been infected by the patient or if they themselves are ill. The investigation involves a **tuberculin skin test** or a **chest x-ray**.

People in the vicinity of a patient also have to be investigated so as to discover the source of the infection.



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE?

Talk to your doctor.

Visit [www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be](http://www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be) or contact the agency "Zorg en Gezondheid" in your province:

- \ Antwerp: 03 224 62 04
- \ Limburg: 011 74 22 40
- \ East Flanders: 09 276 13 80
- \ Flemish Brabant: 016 66 63 50
- \ West Flanders: 050 24 79 00

Visit [www.vrgt.be](http://www.vrgt.be) or get in touch with the Flemish "Vereniging voor Respiratoire Gezondheidszorg en Tuberculosebestrijding" (Association for Respiratory Health Care and Tuberculosis) (VRGT) in your province:

- \ Antwerp:  
Berchem: 03 287 80 10 - Turnhout: 014 41 13 62
- \ Limburg: 011 22 10 33
- \ East Flanders: 09 225 22 58
- \ Flemish Brabant: 016 33 25 52
- \ West Flanders: 059 70 26 85

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Uit het Nederlands vertaalde folder die ook in het Nederlands te verkrijgen is via bovenstaande contactgegevens.

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Vlaanderen  
is zorg

## TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST

for the detection of tuberculosis

AGENTSCHAP  
ZORG & GEZONDHEID

A tuberculin skin test (Mantoux test or intradermal test) is carried out to show if you are infected with the tubercle bacillus (Koch's bacillus), which causes tuberculosis. Commonly taking the form of pulmonary tuberculosis, the disease sometimes also affects the kidneys, bones, brain, glands and other organs.

## HOW IS THE TEST PERFORMED?

A small quantity of fluid (tuberculin) is injected into the skin of a person's forearm. The result is checked a couple of days after the test.

The tuberculin skin test is not dangerous and may also be performed on young children or pregnant women.



## THE RESULT IS NEGATIVE

If a check of the test result **fails to show a clear reaction** on your arm this generally means that you are probably not infected with the tubercle bacillus.

Sometimes a control test has to be carried out after two months.

## THE RESULT IS UNCERTAIN

If the reaction is a **small raised area** that is pale-coloured on your arm, it is not clear whether you are infected or not.

When there is any uncertainty about the result it always has to be carried out again (generally after two months).

## THE RESULT IS POSITIVE

If the reaction takes the form of a **raised hardened area of the skin**, this means you are infected.

In the case of a positive tuberculin skin test you will have a **chest x-ray** to see if tuberculosis has developed. If the x-ray is normal, you are infected but not ill and nor are you contagious to others.

In certain cases it is advisable to take one medicine for six to nine months, thereby reducing the risk of developing tuberculosis later on by about 80%.

Should the chest x-ray reveal tuberculosis lesions, you will be required to start a treatment. Three or more medicinal products then have to be taken very regularly for at least six months.

## POSITIVE TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST

