

Patient Information:

- **About the BCG Vaccine**
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BCG Vaccination*

About the BCG Vaccine

BCG vaccine is used for infants and small children in countries where TB is common. BCG vaccine does not always protect people from TB infection. In persons vaccinated with BCG, sensitivity to tuberculin skin testing is highly variable depending on the strain of BCG used and the group vaccinated. A positive PPD skin test reaction does not predict whether BCG will provide any protection against TB disease. The Center for Disease Control states the skin test results in those who have received BCG vaccine must be read the same way as those in non-vaccinated countries and that a positive test must be considered as evidence of infection with TB.

About Subsequent Testing

Tuberculin skin testing is not contraindicated for persons who have been vaccinated with BCG. The skin test results of such persons are used to make the diagnosis of *M. tuberculosis* infection. A diagnosis of TB infection and the use of treatment for infection should be considered for any BCG vaccinated person who has skin test reaction of greater or equal to 10mm of induration especially if any of the following are present:

- The vaccinated person is a contact of another person who has TB.
- The vaccinated person was born or has resided in a country in which TB is high.
- The vaccinated person is exposed to populations where the prevalence of TB is high (health care workers, homeless shelters, drug treatment centers, jails.)

*Center for Disease Control "BCG Vaccine." *Fact Sheets*. April 2006.
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/pubs/tbfactsheets/250120.htm> (July 2006).

*Schiffert Health Center "Tuberculosis Infection Control Policy." *Schiffert Health Center Policy and Procedure*. July 2006.