



HEALTH SCREEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CREDENTIALLED PROFESSIONAL STAFF, RESIDENTS, CLINICAL FELLOWS and VISITING ELECTIVES

Q Should I complete the health screening requirements prior to my start date?

A Yes. Every effort should be made to complete and submit the health screening requirements prior to your start date. Failure to do so may result in a delay in beginning your employment or clinical placement.

Q Where can I obtain documentation of my previous immunizations, immunity and Tuberculosis (TB) skin test results?

A Immunization records, proof of immunity and results of TB skin tests are available from family physicians/primary care providers, local public health units, government immunization portals, universities and college student health services, immigration records, and occupational health services at a previous employer.

Q Where can I have immunizations, serology testing or a TB skin test done before my start date?

A Family physician/primary care provider, community clinics, public health units, student health or occupational health services at your current place of employment/placement are all potential options where immunizations, serology and TB skin tests may be completed. St. Joseph's Occupational Health and Safety Services (OHSS) also offers assistance with pre-employment immunizations, TB skin tests and serology if needed.

Q Where do I send my completed Health Screen Form, and who can I contact for assistance with my health screen requirements?

A Completed Health Screen Forms can be submitted to ohsshealthreviews@sjhc.london.on.ca Contact Occupational Health and Safety Services for assistance with your Health Review, or to arrange an appointment to have your pre-employment requirements completed at **519-646-6100 x 64334**.

Q What happens if I am missing a requirement on my Health Screen Form?

A Occupational Health and Safety Services will review your Health Screen Form and contact you if there are any outstanding requirements. It is important to provide yourself with four to six (4-6) weeks before you start date to complete any outstanding immunizations, serology tests and TB skin tests.

Q I was a resident at St. Joseph's two (2) years ago. Do I need to complete another Health Screen Form?

A Yes. A new health screen provides the opportunity to submit up to date immunization documentation and to inform Occupational Health and Safety Services of any changes in your health status. Please indicate on your new health screen form that you have a past St. Joseph's record.

Q What are the current COVID-19 vaccine requirements?

A COVID-19 vaccines are not required, but are highly recommended.

Q What's involved in a two (2) step TB skin test?

A A two (2) step TB skin test includes the first skin test administered, then read by a qualified professional 48 -72 hours after administration. This is followed by a second test administered a minimum of seven (7) days following the first, and up to one (1) year after the first TB skin test. Again, the test needs to be read 48-72 hours after the tuberculin is injected. Therefore four (4) visits are required in total to complete a two (2) step TB skin test. The minimum number of days required to complete both steps is nine (9) days. Please note that TB skin tests cannot be administered on Thursdays as the required appointment for interpretation needs to take place 48-72h after administration.

Q I had a QuantiFERON-TB Gold test done. Do I still need a TB skin Test?

A Yes. TB skin tests are required for surveillance purposes in relation to occupational exposure to active TB. St. Joseph's requires baseline TB skin tests for all employees and learners. QuantiFERON-TB Gold tests can follow a positive TB skin test to determine if the result is a true or false positive. These tests are not required by St. Joseph's and are not covered by the Ontario Health Plan (OHIP).

Q I had BCG vaccination as a child. Should I still get a TB skin test done?

A Yes. BCG vaccination is not a contraindication to the TB skin test. BCG vaccination given during infancy is an unlikely explanation for a positive TB skin test since immunity from BCG vaccination wanes after about 10 years. Therefore, a TB skin test is still needed as an initial screening tool for latent or active Tuberculosis infection.

Q I had a positive TB skin test in the past. Do I need another one?

A No. Once you have had one positive TB skin test, you should avoid having another one in the future to prevent having a severe blistering reaction. There is also no clinical value in repeating TB skin tests once positive.

Q My TB skin test is positive. Is there anything else I need to do?

A Yes. A chest X-ray is required following a positive TB skin test. You are also required to complete *Section C – positive TB Skin Test Questionnaire* and *Section D – Positive TB Skin Test Education and Attestation* on the Health Review Form.