

BCG Vaccine and TB Tests

If you need a **TB test** it is important to know if you received the BCG vaccine as a child. You can still get TB even if you were vaccinated, especially if you're now an adult.



The BCG vaccine protects against the worst kinds of childhood TB. It does not protect you as an adult.



Test for TB with a blood test. The TB vaccine, also called BCG, does not change the result of a blood test. If you had a BCG vaccine as a child tell your doctor NOT to use a TB skin test.



A chest x-ray and doctors visit is the next step if your TB blood test is positive. Your doctor will determine if you have inactive TB or active TB disease.



In the U.S., lots of people take medicine for inactive TB to help them not get sick later. Other countries may not give medicine for inactive TB. Medicine usually lasts 3 to 4 months.

People with active TB disease feel sick and can spread TB germs to those close to them. You can call us at 206-744-4579, option 1, or email: LTBI@kingcounty.gov to ask questions.