



It's been two months since you had your TB test...

# IT'S TIME FOR YOUR *Follow-up TB Test*

## *If I had a negative TB test the first time, why do I need another one?*

After you have breathed in tuberculosis germs, it takes the body several weeks to develop the ability to show a reaction to the TB test\*. Your first test may have been done before your positive reaction developed.

Because of this, it is very important that you have another test 2-3 months after the last time you spent time with the infectious person.

If the result of the second tuberculosis test is negative, it is unlikely that you have TB infection.

Some people with weakened immune systems (those with HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes, etc.) may not develop a positive reaction *even if infected*. Let your doctor know if you have any of these conditions.

If the result of the second tuberculosis test is positive, this indicates a recent TB infection. You will be asked to have a chest x-ray to rule out active disease in the lungs. You then have the option of taking treatment for this infection.

Go to your doctor or the clinic for your second test. Remind them that you were around someone sick with TB and you need your second test.

*If you or your doctor have any questions, please ask your public health nurse or call the health department's TB Program at (619) 692-8631 and ask for the Nurse of the Day.*

*You may qualify for Medi-Cal benefits. People with TB infection or TB disease may also qualify for TB-Cal. To find out about your eligibility and to request an information packet and application, please call 1-858-514-6885. Collect calls are accepted.*

Public Health Nurse: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*TB tests: You may have had a skin test or a blood test to diagnose TB infection.*