



# Contact tracing

Contact tracing is a process used to stop the spread of infection in the community by identifying and testing people who have had recent contact with someone diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB).

## Why is contact tracing important?

TB is spread by close contact with someone who has active TB disease of the lungs.

A person who has been diagnosed with TB may have caught it from someone else close to them who is not aware they have TB. They can then be treated to stop the spread of infection.

Contact tracing identifies people who have had exposure to TB. They can then be offered medication to prevent the TB from becoming active. This is called preventive therapy.

Contact tracing is also an important opportunity to offer education and counselling to people who may have had exposure to TB, as well as to the wider community.

Contact tracing is a voluntary process and all services are provided free at the TB clinic. We perform TB screening and follow-up services for both adults and children at the clinic.

## What tests are done?

The three main tests are:

- The Tuberculin Skin Test (TST), often referred to as a Mantoux test
- Chest x-ray
- QuantiFERON blood test.

When a contact is identified, information will be provided on which tests are required.

## Will I need follow-up?

You will receive information about your test results.

Depending on your results, you may need to see a doctor. If so, an appointment will be made for you at the TB clinic.

For more information, see the  
[Healthy WA website](#)



## WA Tuberculosis Control Program

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