



## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Consult your doctor.

Visit [www.departementzorg.be](http://www.departementzorg.be) or contact the Department of Care in your province:

- Antwerp: 02 553 08 92
- Limburg: 02 553 08 93
- East Flanders: 02 553 08 94
- Flemish Brabant: 02 553 08 93
- West Flanders: 02 553 08 94

Visit [www.vrgt.be](http://www.vrgt.be) or contact the Flemish Association for Respiratory Health Care and Tuberculosis Control (VRGT) in your province:

- Antwerp  
Berchem: 03 287 80 10 - Turnhout: 014 41 13 62
- Brussels: 02 411 94 76
- Limburg: 011 22 10 33 (Hasselt)
- East Flanders: 09 225 22 58 (Ghent)
- Flemish Brabant: 016 79 09 92 (Leuven)
- West Flanders  
Ostend: 059 79 02 58 - Kortrijk: 059 79 02 57



Department of Care  
[infectieziektebestrijding@vlaanderen.be](mailto:infectieziektebestrijding@vlaanderen.be)  
[www.departementzorg.be](http://www.departementzorg.be)

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**Vlaanderen**  
is zorgzaam en  
gezond samenleven

## WHAT IS A CONTACT INVESTIGATION?

Persons in the immediate environment of an infectious patient are examined to confirm whether they are infected or ill.

This is via a tuberculin skin test, an IGRA (blood test) and/or a lung X-ray.

Persons in the environment of someone who is sick are also examined, to identify the source of the disease.



## TUBERCULIN SKIN TEST

to detect tuberculosis

DEPARTEMENT  
**ZORG**

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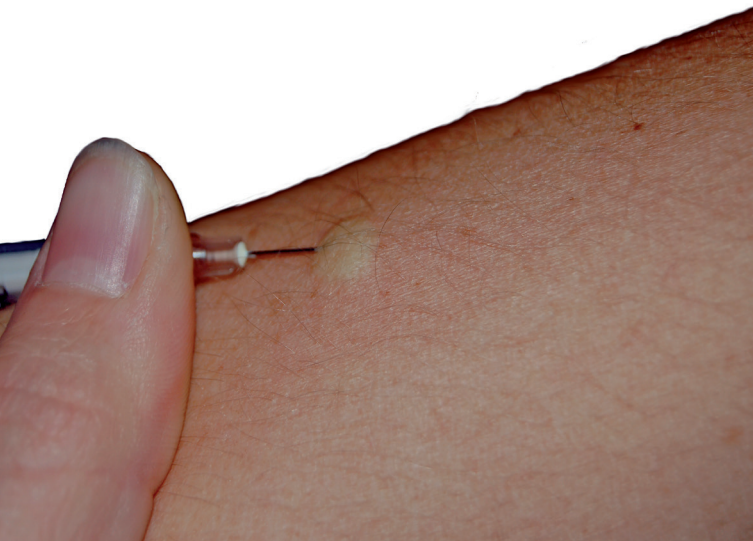
A tuberculin skin test (Mantoux test or intradermal test) shows if you are infected with the tuberculosis bacteria. This bacterium causes tuberculosis.

The most common form of the disease is pulmonary tuberculosis. The kidneys, bones, brain, glands or other organs are also sometimes affected.

## HOW IS THE TEST CONDUCTED?

A small amount of liquid (tuberculin) is injected into the skin of the forearm. The result is checked a few days after the test.

The tuberculin skin test is not dangerous and can also be performed on young children or pregnant women.



## THE RESULT IS NEGATIVE.

If **no obvious reaction** is felt on the arm when the test is controlled, then you are most likely not infected with the tuberculosis bacteria.

Sometimes it is necessary to perform a control test after two months.

## THE RESULT IS UNCLEAR

If a **small swelling** can be felt on the arm during a control, it is not clear whether you are infected or not.

If the result is unclear, a new test is always taken (usually after two months).

## THE RESULT IS POSITIVE.

If a **clear swelling and hardening** of the skin can be felt on the skin during a control, you are infected.

If your tuberculin skin test is positive, a **lung X-ray** will be taken to see if you have developed tuberculosis. If the lung X-ray is normal, then you are infected but not sick and not infectious to others.

If you test positive, medication is advisable to prevent you from getting sick. Discuss this with your general practitioner.

If lesions from tuberculosis are visible on the lung X-ray, you must start treatment. You must then take different medication at set times for at least six months.

## Positive tuberculin skin test

