



Frequently Asked Questions: Tuberculosis Testing and the *QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube Test* (“QFT”)

What is the QFT?

QFT stands for the *QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube Test*. It is a blood test for tuberculosis (TB) infection.

How does the QFT work?

A small amount of blood is drawn from your arm with a needle, just like any blood test. The blood is then sent to a lab for testing. You should receive your results by mail or over the phone a few days after your test.

Is the QFT better than other TB tests?

The QFT is a better test than the tuberculin skin test (TST), particularly in people who have received the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine.

What do the test results mean?

- A **negative** result usually means you do not have TB infection. No follow-up is necessary unless you have symptoms such as cough for more than two weeks, fever or unexplained weight loss.
- A **positive** test result means you may have TB infection (TB germs in your body), but it doesn't always mean you have active TB disease (you have symptoms and you are sick). Your health care provider will use other tests, like a chest x-ray, to look for signs of active TB. You can follow up with your own health care provider or come to a NYC Health Department chest clinic for free evaluation and care if needed. A physician will determine if you need treatment.
- An **indeterminate** result usually means that the test did not work properly or your immune system did not respond as expected to the test. You may need to repeat the test or have a chest X-ray and a medical exam. You will be notified about what other tests or exams you need.

For further information

For more information, please call **311** or visit nyc.gov/health/tb.