

Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 Vaccines and Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST) from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI):

Tuberculin skin testing (TST) or Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA)

- There is no data available on whether COVID-19 mRNA vaccines affect either the tuberculin skin test (TST) or the interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) result.
- Although the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is not a live virus vaccine, there is a theoretical risk that mRNA vaccines may temporarily affect cell-mediated immunity or may result in a false-negative TST or IGRA test result.
- If tuberculin skin testing or an IGRA test is required, it should be administered and read prior to immunization with a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine.
- If a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine has been administered, it is recommended that TST or IGRA testing be delayed for at least 4 weeks after vaccination.
- The risk of delaying TST or IGRA testing should be weighed against the risk of a possible false negative result.
- If the benefit of performing TST or IGRA testing outweighs the risk, especially for those whom there is a high suspicion of TB infection, re-testing at least 4 weeks post COVID-19 mRNA vaccination is recommended to verify the result.