

## **Definition of positive TST results in infants, children, and adolescents\***

The interpretation of the TST is based on a person's risk of TB infection and risk of progression to TB disease if infected. The definitions below apply regardless of previous immunization with bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine.

### **The AAP offers the following guidelines for defining positive TST results in infants, children, and adolescents:\*\***

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#### *Induration of 5 mm or greater*

- Children in close contact with persons with known or suspected infectious TB disease
  - Children suspected to have TB disease
    - Findings on chest radiograph consistent with active or previous TB disease
    - Clinical evidence of TB disease<sup>a</sup>
  - Children receiving immunosuppressive therapy<sup>b</sup> or with immunosuppressive conditions, including HIV infection
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#### *Induration of 10 mm or greater*

- Children at increased risk of disseminated TB disease:
    - Children younger than 4 years of age<sup>c</sup>
    - Children with other medical conditions such as Hodgkin disease, lymphoma, diabetes mellitus, chronic renal failure, or malnutrition
  - Children with likelihood of increased exposure to TB disease
    - Children born in regions of the world with a high prevalence of TB
    - Children who travel to regions of the world with a high prevalence of TB
    - Children frequently exposed to adults who are HIV-infected, homeless, users of illicit drugs, residents of nursing homes, or incarcerated
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#### *Induration of 15 mm or greater*

- Children 4 years of age or older without any risk factors; however, children without risk factors should not be tested

**a** Evidence by physical examination or laboratory assessment that would include TB in the working differential diagnosis (e.g., meningitis).

**b** Includes immunosuppressive doses of corticosteroids or tumor necrosis factor-alpha antagonists or blockers.

**c** CDC considers a 10 mm induration positive in children younger than 5 years of age.

\*Excerpted from Management of Latent Tuberculosis Infection in Children and Adolescents: A Guide for the Primary Care Provider; Rutgers Global Tuberculosis Institute

\*\*American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Infectious Diseases. Tuberculosis. In D.W. Kimberlin (Ed.), 2021 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, 32 ed. 786-814.