## **Two-Step TST Testing**

Two-step testing is a strategy used to reduce the likelihood that a boosted reaction will be misinterpreted as a recent infection (Figure 3.6). Two-step testing should be used for the initial skin testing of persons who will be retested periodically, such as health-care workers.

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If the reaction to the first test is classified as negative, a second test should be repeated 1 to 3 weeks later. A positive reaction to the second test probably represents a boosted reaction. On the basis of this second test result, the person should be classified as previously infected. This would **not** be considered a skin test conversion or a new TB infection; however, the patient may still be a candidate for LTBI treatment. If the second test result is also negative, the person should be classified as having a negative baseline TST result.

Figure 3.6

Two-Step TST Testing Baseline skin test What is Negative **Positive** the Reaction? Retest Person probably 1-3 weeks later has TB infection Follow-up for What is positive TST and evaluate Negative **Positive** the for LTBI treatment Reaction? Person probably The reaction is considered a boosted reaction does NOT have (due to TB infection that occurred a long time ago). TB infection Note: The person does have LTBI; a decision must be made whether to treat or not. Repeat TST at regular intervals; Follow-up for a positive reaction positive TST and evaluate could be due to a for LTBI treatment recent TB infection.

Excerpted from the CDC Core Curriculum on Tuberculosis: What the Clinician Should Know, Chapter 3: Testing for Tuberculosis Infection and Disease, p. 59. <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/tb/education/corecurr/index.htm">https://www.cdc.gov/tb/education/corecurr/index.htm</a>