
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Routine TB Skin Testing Resumes

GRAND RAPIDS - The Kent County Health Department is once again able to provide tuberculosis (TB) skin testing for those who need it on a routine basis, after a nationwide shortage of the products used for tests.

The shortage caused KCHD to halt routine skin tests for schools and workplaces in August. During the shortage, staff administered tests based on CDC recommendations for those at an increased risk of contracting TB, and instituted blood tests for those who required testing. The blood test is still available for those who prefer it.

“We tried to do our best to improvise while dealing with this situation,” said Adam London, Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. “Typically, we see approximately 300 people a month for routine skin TB tests. Our staff did an excellent job to find a temporary fix to a problem that we could not have foreseen.” TB tests are often required by employers (especially in the health care industry) and for those seeking residency in the United States.

Workplaces, schools, and individuals may once again schedule routine TB skin tests through the Kent County Health Department by calling 616.632.7190.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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