



National Institute for Public Health  
and the Environment  
*Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport*

# Chest X-ray to test for **TB**

Information about a chest X-ray to test for TB



**A chest X-ray (of the lungs) can identify abnormalities. Abnormalities on a chest X-ray could indicate tuberculosis (TB). This leaflet tells you more about using a chest X-ray to test for TB.**

## What is TB?

TB is a serious disease caused by bacteria. The disease usually affects the lungs (pulmonary TB). Someone with pulmonary TB can spread the disease to others through the air, for example by coughing or sneezing. Symptoms that could indicate TB are coughing, weight loss, high temperature (fever) and night sweats. Some people have very mild symptoms or none at all. That means you could have TB without knowing it.

## What you should know about the chest X-ray

The test is safe, also for children and pregnant women. It is important that you have the test done. It is important for your own health and that of the people around you.

## What should you do before the X-ray?

- Remove any jewellery (e.g. necklace, brooch or piercing).
- Tie up long hair. You will usually not need to remove a hijab.
- You will usually be asked to strip to the waist.

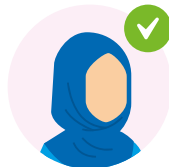
### What should you do before the X-ray?



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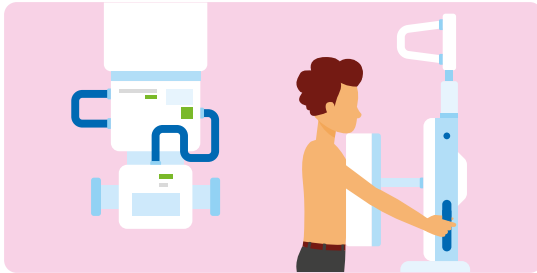


**You will usually have to strip to the waist**

## What happens when a chest X-ray is taken?

- You will stand in front of the camera. The assistant will help you stand in the right position.
- The assistant will ask you to take a deep breath and hold it for a few seconds. That is when the X-ray is taken.
- The assistant will check that the X-ray was taken correctly. If not, a new X-ray will be taken.

### Stand in front of the camera in the right position



Take a deep breath and hold it for a few seconds



### What happens after a chest X-ray has been taken?

- The Municipal Public Health Service (GGD) TB doctor will assess your chest X-ray within a few days.
- The GGD will contact you if further testing is required following examination of your chest X-ray. This does not necessarily mean that you have TB. There could be other causes for abnormalities seen on the X-ray. Further testing as soon as possible is in your own interest. If the GGD invites you for another appointment, it is very important that you attend.
- If no abnormalities are identified on your X-ray, you will usually not be notified.
- If you have TB, treatment will start as soon as possible. If necessary, the GGD will test your contacts for TB or a TB infection. The GGD TB doctor will notify your general practitioner if you are found to have TB (or any other abnormality).

The X-ray is a ‘snapshot’ of the situation at that time. You may still develop symptoms that could indicate TB, such as coughing, weight loss, high temperature (fever) or night sweats. In that case, always contact your general practitioner, even if you have recently been tested. You can also contact the TB department of the GGD in your region.

### What do we do with your data?

The GGD follows the rules of the law in handling your personal data that are stored in your medical file.

### Any questions, tips, complaints or compliments about the screening?

- Please contact the TB prevention department of the GGD in your region. You can find the contact details on [www.ggd.nl](http://www.ggd.nl) and in the vaccination invitation. GGDs have a complaints procedure.
- For more information about TB, go to [www.rivm.nl/tuberculose](http://www.rivm.nl/tuberculose).

This information is available in English at:  
Xogtaan oo Soomaali ah waxaa laga heli karaa:

ብላጽንቋ ትግርኛ ዝተተርጎመ መልክዕ ናይ'ዚ ሓበሬታ፡ ኣብ'ዚ ዝስዕብ ገጽ ክርከብ ይከኣል፡-

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[www.rivm.nl/en/tuberculosis/information-materials](http://www.rivm.nl/en/tuberculosis/information-materials)

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