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Mantoux tuberculin skin test to be performed on University student

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CUT LINE

Dr. Robert W. Hansen, director of the Montana State University Health Service, obviously approves of the spirit in which Sally Leland, freshman from Billings, is taking the Mantoux tuberculin skin test. The safe and painless test for tuberculosis infection is standard procedure for new students at the University.

Here, Mrs. Lois Finley, head nurse at the MSU Health Service, places one drop of a clear, germ-free liquid (Purified Protein Derivative, or PPD) under the first layer of skin on Sally's forearm. The test reaction is read from 48 to 72 hours after the test is given.

A positive reaction to the tuberculin skin test indicates a person has tuberculosis germs in his body, but it does not necessarily mean he has active, communicable tuberculosis, Dr. Hansen said. A student who shows a positive reaction to the test is given a chest x-ray and, if necessary, is referred to his family physician for further examination.

The MSU Health Service operates the Mantoux test program with the aid of the Montana Tuberculosis Association, which uses Christmas Seal funds to furnish the PPD, needles, syringes, and alcohol lamps needed for the tests, Dr. Hansen said.

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