

- Persistent fever
- Generalized symptoms
- Pallor, anemia, weakness, and weight loss

The **tuberculin skin test (TST)** is the most important indicator of whether a child has been infected with the tubercle bacillus. Universal testing of all children for TB is no longer recommended. A targeted testing method is employed wherein only children and adolescents at high risk for contracting the disease, in addition to patients at risk for progression to TB disease, are screened. A risk factor questionnaire has been developed to facilitate screening pediatric populations. Factors on the questionnaire include a close association with persons having latent or active disease, foreign birth, or foreign travel ([van der Heijden, Heerman, McFadden, et al, 2015](#)). Recommendations for TST of children are listed in [Box 21-12](#).

### **Box 21-12**

## **Tuberculin Skin Test Recommendations for Infants, Children, and Adolescents\***

### **Children for Whom Immediate Tuberculin Skin Test Is Indicated**

Contacts of persons with confirmed or suspected contagious tuberculosis (TB; contact investigation)

Children with radiographic or clinical findings suggesting TB disease

Children immigrating from endemic countries (e.g., Asia, Middle East, Africa, Latin America)

Children with travel histories to endemic countries or significant contact with indigenous persons from such countries<sup>†</sup>

### **Children Who Should Have Annual Tuberculin Skin Test<sup>‡</sup>**