



## **LOCAL PHARMACY TO DO TB SKIN TESTS FOR PHARMACY STUDENTS FACING A DEADLINE.**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Thad Schumacher | Owner and Pharmacist  
608.274.3784 | [tschumacher@fitchburgfamilyrx.com](mailto:tschumacher@fitchburgfamilyrx.com)

Madison, WI - Fitchburg Family Pharmacy has stepped up to another unexpected Coronavirus challenge: TB testing healthcare students so they can practice during the pandemic. Owner pharmacist Thad Schumacher was contacted by the University of Wisconsin – Madison just last week to ask if he could administer Tuberculosis (TB) skin tests to pharmacy students. Not equipped or licensed for these services, the pharmacist team at Fitchburg Family Pharmacy worked non-stop this week to develop a TB program, negotiate a collaborative practice agreement, and trained staff, all in 48 hours. Now, the pharmacy and its pharmacists are fully ready to test anyone for TB, including students who must meet an April 30 deadline in order to serve the public.

These services are made available to the public through a collaborative practice agreement with allergist-immunologist Dr. Don Bukstein. Schumacher recounted, “We were made aware that TB skin testing was difficult to find. Normally, the UW Health Services would administer tests to healthcare students, but currently campus is closed to students. Fortunately, Fitchburg Family Pharmacy has the nimbleness and community connections to meet this need rapidly.”

All pharmacy students must be tested for TB before they are allowed to train in patient care settings, in order to protect patients and current staff. But during a pandemic, these precautionary requirements that are routinely done on campus are unavailable, leaving approximately 150 pharmacy students with an April 30th deadline to have their annual TB test performed. There is another group of pharmacy students that have a May 30th deadline to meet. Now, Fitchburg Family Pharmacy can fill this need by providing TB tests to students, other healthcare professionals, and members of the public. Schumacher also negotiated with the UW – Madison School of Pharmacy so that test costs are covered for students and they do not incur financial burden. Fitchburg Family Pharmacy will be running an impromptu clinic specifically for pharmacy students this Saturday and Sunday after the store closes.

Fitchburg Family Pharmacy is located at 3050 Cahill Main #6 in Fitchburg. The pharmacy specializes in putting the needs of the patient as first priority, this program is yet another example of that mission. Further information about the pharmacy and the impact it has on the community can be found by visiting the website [www.whatagreatpharmacy.com](http://www.whatagreatpharmacy.com) or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FitchburgFamilyPharmacy/>

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