

Active TB Disease

- You feel sick.
- You can spread TB to others.
- Pills make you better.

Steps to make sure you do not get sick with TB

- Get a TB skin test.
- Return for your second TB skin test if necessary.
- Talk to your health care provider about concerns you have about TB.
- Take all medication prescribed for you by your doctor.

Latent TB Infection

- You feel well.
- You can't spread TB to others.
- Pills help keep you from getting active disease.

TB can be prevented...

TB can be treated...

TB can be cured

Talk to your Health Care Provider if you have questions or concerns about TB.



TUBERCULOSIS

What Do I Need To Know?

Answers to questions people ask most often

What is TB?

TB is a disease caused by germs that normally enter the body through the lungs. Pulmonary (lung) TB is usually contagious.

TB can also affect other parts of the body.

Extrapulmonary tuberculosis is most common in the kidneys and the lymph nodes, but other organs and bones can also be affected. Extrapulmonary TB is not usually contagious.



Do I have TB germs?

You may have TB germs in your body because you have spent time at home, work, school or other place with someone who is sick with TB.

A person who is sick with TB may cough a lot. Coughing sprays TB germs into the air where you can breathe them in.

How can I find out if I have TB germs?

You need a TB skin test (TST) to see if your body was exposed to TB germs. You may need more than one TB test to make sure you do not have TB germs.

Why do I need a chest x-ray?

If your skin test is positive, you will need a chest x-ray. The x-ray will show if you have Active TB in your lungs or not. You may also be asked to provide sputum (spit) samples at this time.

Am I OK if my first TB test is negative?

Even if your first TB test is negative, you still could have TB germs in your body. It takes time for your body to recognize the TB germ. You may need another skin test a few weeks later to make sure you do not have TB germs.

What if my TB test is positive?

If your TB test is positive it means your body was in contact with TB germs. TB germs can live in your body without making you sick. Your immune system can build a wall around the TB germs, which keeps them from harming you. This is called latent TB infection.

If the wall ever breaks down, the TB germs will escape and start making you sick.

This is called Active TB disease.

These are signs of Active TB disease:

- Always tired
- No appetite
- A cough that lasts for many weeks
- Sweating at night
- Weight loss
- Fever

There are antibiotic pills available to cure latent TB infection and Active TB disease. It is important to take all the prescribed pills, usually for 6 to 9 months.

What happens if I do not take the pills?

If you do not take the pills, there is always a chance that you could get sick with Active TB disease and spread TB germs to others.