

Tuberculosis (TB) Facts

TB Can Be Treated

What is TB?

"TB" is short for a disease called tuberculosis. TB is spread through the air from one person to another. TB germs are passed through the air when someone who is sick with **TB disease** of the lungs or throat coughs, speaks, laughs, sings, or sneezes. Anyone near the sick person with **TB disease** can breathe TB germs into their lungs.

TB germs can live in your body without making you sick. This is called **latent TB infection**. This means you have only inactive (sleeping) TB germs in your body. The inactive germs cannot be passed on to anyone else. However, if these germs wake up or become active in your body and multiply, you will get sick with **TB disease**.

When TB germs are active (multiplying in your body), this is called **TB disease**. These germs usually attack the lungs. They can also attack other parts of the body, such as, the kidneys, brain, or spine. **TB disease** will make you sick. People with **TB disease** may spread the germs to people they spend time with every day.

If the **TB disease** is in your lungs, you may:

- cough a lot,
- cough up mucus or phlegm ("flem"),
- cough up blood, or
- have chest pain when you cough.

You should ALWAYS COVER YOUR MOUTH when you cough!

If you have **TB disease**, you may also:

- feel weak,
- lose your appetite,
- lose weight,
- have a fever, or
- sweat a lot at night.

These are symptoms of **TB disease**. These symptoms may last for several weeks. Without treatment, they usually get worse.

If you get **TB disease** in another part of the body, the symptoms will be different. Only a doctor can tell you if you have **TB disease**.



Page 1 of 2

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Division of Tuberculosis Elimination



CS232274_A

Signature:

Date: