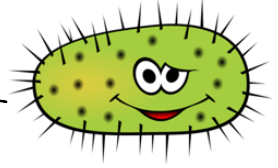


I'm a TB germ.
Please take your medicine
so I won't make you sick!



Tuberculosis (TB) information sheet

What is Tuberculosis?

- Tuberculosis, also known as TB, is a kind of germ called a bacterium.
- TB most often affects the lungs, but it can cause disease in any part of the body.
- TB can make you very sick. If TB is not treated with medications, it can be fatal.

How do people get TB?

- TB germs are easily spread through the air, when a person with TB in their lungs coughs or sneezes.
- Other people become infected when they breathe in air with TB germs.

What are the symptoms of TB lung disease in children?

- A bad cough, lasting more than 3 weeks
- Fever for many days
- Sudden, unexplained weight loss
- No appetite
- Feeling weak and tired
- Chest pain
- Coughing up blood

Many people can be infected with TB, but have no symptoms.

This is called a latent (sleeping or dormant) infection.

How is TB diagnosed?

- The most important part of diagnosing TB is having a doctor examine you.
- You may have a TB skin test. This test involves a small skin prick with a needle.
- You may have an x-ray of your chest.
- Sometimes, samples of phlegm or other specimens are needed.

Can TB be treated?

- Yes! Your doctor may give you medication that you need to take for 6 to 12 months.
- TB medications are given FREE OF CHARGE from Public Health Services.

How can someone prevent the spread of TB?

- Visit your doctor immediately if you were in close contact with someone with TB.
- If you have TB, it is very important to take all of your medication exactly as your doctor ordered.
- If your doctor says you are contagious (you can spread the TB germ), you may need to stay at home, or wear a mask in public, until you are no longer contagious.

Where can I find more information about TB?

- Canadian Tuberculosis Standards: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tbpc-latb/pubs/tbstand07-eng.php
- US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/tb