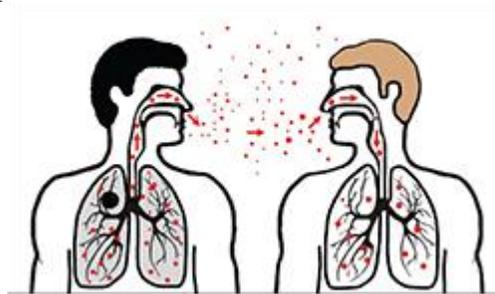


Tuberculosis Fact Sheet

What is Tuberculosis (TB)?

TB is a disease caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* that is spread from person to person through the air. TB usually affects the lungs. The bacteria go into the air when a person with TB of the lung coughs, sneezes, laughs, or sings. TB infection then occurs if the bacteria becomes inactive. If the bacteria becomes active then the person develops TB disease.



TB can affect anyone of any age

Anyone can get TB, but some people are at higher risk. Those at higher risk include:

- Infants and small children
- People who share the same breathing space (such as family members, friends, coworkers) with someone who has TB disease
- People with low income who live in crowded conditions, have poor nutrition, and have poor health care
- Homeless people
- People born in countries where a lot of people have TB disease
- Nursing home residents
- Prisoners
- Alcoholics and injection drug users
- People with medical conditions such as diabetes, kidney failure, and those with weakened immune systems (such as HIV or AIDS)

TB symptoms:

- Feeling weak or sick
- Rapid weight loss (over a few weeks or months)
- Fever, or night sweats.
- Cough lasting more than 2 weeks
- Chest pain
- Coughing up blood



A skin test or a blood test can tell if you have TB infection



TB Treatment

TB can be treated. TB infection is treated using 2 drugs and TB disease is treated using 4 drugs.