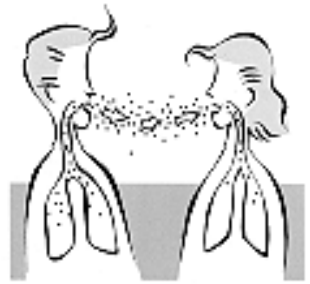


TB Fact Sheet



What is TB?

TB is a disease caused by germs that mostly affect the lungs.

Do I have TB germs?

You may have TB germs in your body because you have spent time with someone who was sick with TB. TB can live in your body for a long time without making you sick.

A person who is sick with TB may cough a lot. Coughing sprays TB germs into the air and this is how others can breathe them in.

How can I find out if I have TB germs?

A special test called a mantoux test is used to see if you have TB germs in your body. You may need more than one TB test to make sure you do not have TB germs.

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 will need another test in three months to make sure you do not have TB germs.

What if my TB test is positive?

If your TB test is positive it means that TB germs have entered your body at some point in the past. You will now have to get a chest x-ray and sputum test to make sure you do not have TB. You will be advised to start taking medicine to prevent active TB disease.

These are the signs of **active TB disease**:

- ✓ always tired
- ✓ no appetite
- ✓ a cough that last for many weeks
- ✓ sweating at night
- ✓ weight loss
- ✓ fevers

Steps to make sure you do not get sick with TB

- ✓ **Get a TB test.**
- ✓ **Return for your second TB test if your health care provider says you need one.**
- ✓ **Take the medicine recommended to you by your health care provider.**