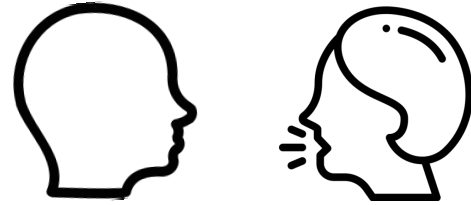
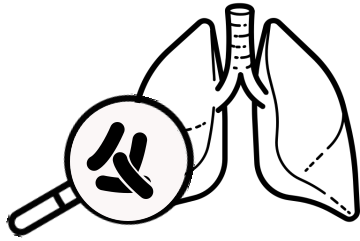


Tuberculosis (TB)

Fact Sheet



Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by a bacterium, which usually affects the lungs. However, other parts of the body can also be affected. Not everyone infected with TB gets sick. As a result, there are two TB-related conditions: Latent TB Infection (non infectious) and active TB disease (infectious).

When someone with active TB disease of the lung coughs, sneezes, or sings, TB germs get into the air. People who share the same air space with this person may breathe in these germs.

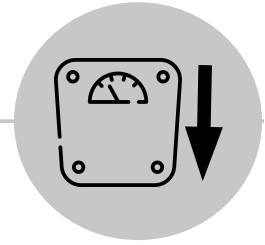
Signs and Symptoms



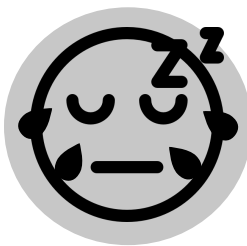
Cough



Weakness



Weight Loss



Night Sweats



Chest Tightness



Fever

Persons with TB of the lung may have a cough that lasts three or more weeks, chest pain, and/or cough up blood. Other symptoms depend on the particular part of the body that is affected.



Talk to your healthcare provider if you think you have TB. Your healthcare provider may order a skin test (TST) or a blood test (IGRA) to detect latent TB infection. A chest x-ray will be done if either of these tests comes back positive. Active TB is treated with antibiotics. Preventative medication is available for latent TB.

Pulmonary/Extrapulmonary



TB disease can cause infection in the lung (pulmonary), which is considered infectious to others. TB disease can also occur outside of the lung (extrapulmonary), which is not infectious.

Who Gets TB?



Anyone can get TB. People at greater risk are family members, friends, and coworkers who share the same air space with the person who has TB disease of the lungs.

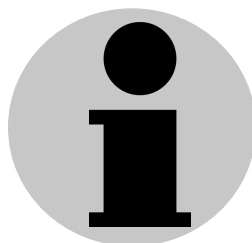
Others at increased risk include people living or working in group settings, people who abuse drugs or alcohol, people with medical conditions such as diabetes, HIV infection (the virus that cause AIDS), or certain types of cancer, and people who are underweight. People coming from countries with high rates of TB are also at increased risk.

Multi-Drug Resistant TB



- Multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB is caused by the TB germs being resistant to first-line antibiotic drugs.
- When resistance occurs, one or more of the TB drugs can no longer kill the TB germs.
- Extensively drug resistant (XDR) TB occurs when the TB germs are resistant to some of the first-line and second-line TB drugs.
- This can develop when TB patients do not take their TB drugs as prescribed by the doctor.
- XDR and MDR TB are harder and more costly to treat. Treatment also takes longer than non drug resistant TB.
- Medications used to treat XDR and MDR TB can have life-threatening side effects.

For More Information, Visit:



1. www.maine.gov/dhhs/tb
2. www.cdc.gov/tb

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.