

# TUBERCULOSIS (TB): A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

TB is a disease caused by germs (bacteria) that are spread from person to person through the air. TB usually affects the lungs but it can also affect other parts of the body, such as the kidney, spine, and brain.

## HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

The TB germs are spread through the air when a person with TB of the lungs:

- Coughs
- Sneezes
- Laughs
- Sings
- Speaks



## POSSIBLE TB SYMPTOMS

When a person has TB disease, they might have symptoms.

- Feeling weak or sick
- Unexplained weight loss
- Fever and/or night sweats
- Cough that does not get better
- Chest pain
- Coughing up blood
- Other symptoms depend on the part of the body that is affected.

## YOU MAY HAVE TB AND NOT KNOW IT.

TB can be sleeping in your body without any symptoms. It is important to get a TB test to know your status. Testing for TB is the first step to protect yourself and your loved ones.

## IF YOU HAVE A POSITIVE TEST, THERE ARE PILLS THAT YOU CAN TAKE TO PREVENT TB DISEASE.



Taking pills for 3 or 4 months can prevent you from becoming sick with TB.

Find out more. Visit our website.



County of San Diego  
Health and Human Services Agency  
Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic

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