

Latent TB Infection

You feel well

You can't spread TB to others

Pills keep you from getting sick

Active TB Disease

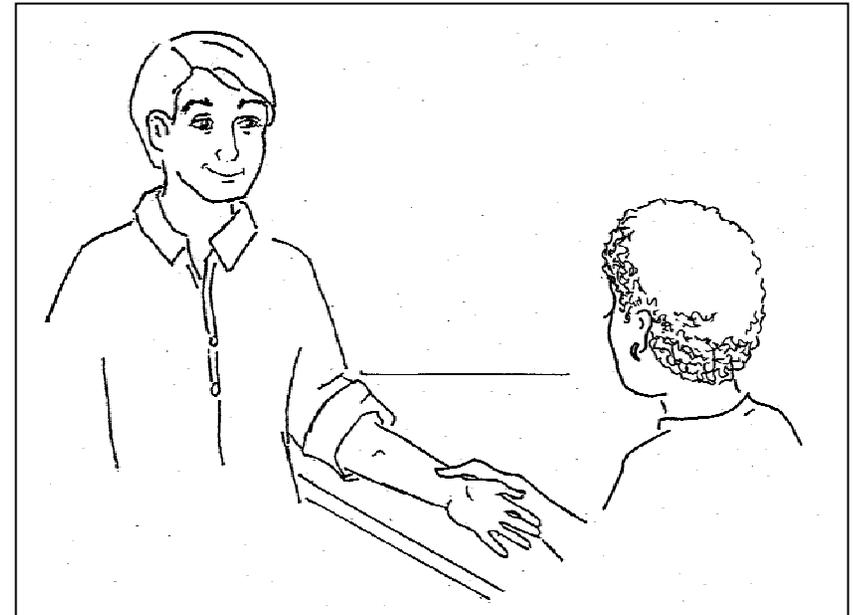
You feel sick

You can spread TB to others

Pills make you better

Your TB Test

Answers to questions people ask most often



Who do I call if I need help?

For more about TB call the
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Division of TB Prevention & Control
Phone: (617) 983-6970
Web page: www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/tb/

TB

Can be prevented
Can be treated
Can be cured

Tuberculosis

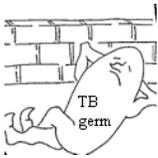
Tuberculosis is also called TB

What is TB?

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

What does a positive TB test mean?

A positive TB test means you have TB germs in your body. TB germs can live in your body without making you sick. Your body builds a wall around the TB germs which keeps them from harming you. This is called **latent TB infection**.



Some people with a positive skin test get sick with TB. The wall breaks down, and the TB germs escape and make them sick. This is called **active TB disease**.



How did I get the TB germs?

You catch TB germs by spending a lot of time with someone who has active TB.

A person with active TB may cough a lot. Coughing or sneezing sprays TB germs into the air where you can breathe them in.

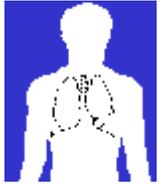
Can my family or friends catch TB from me?

If you have **latent TB infection**, no one can catch TB from you.

If you have **active TB disease**, your family, friends and people you spend time with can catch TB from you.

Why do I need a chest x-ray?

If your skin test is positive, you will need a chest x-ray. The x-ray will show if you have active TB in your lungs or not. Your doctor or nurse will tell you where to get your **free** chest x-ray.



What can I do so I don't get sick with TB?



To be sure you don't get sick, you may need to take pills to kill the TB germs. **The pills are free.** Your doctor or nurse will tell you how many to take and when to take them.

What happens if I don't take the pills?

If you don't take the pills, there is always a chance that you could get sick with active TB disease.

These are the signs of active TB disease.

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

TB Test Result: _____ **mm Date:** _____

Name: _____

Clinic Appointment Date: _____

Location: _____