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
http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/tb/

7/01

Someone I know has TB...

What do I do now?

Can be prevented
Can be treated
Can be cured

TB

Tuberculosis is also called TB

English

What is TB?

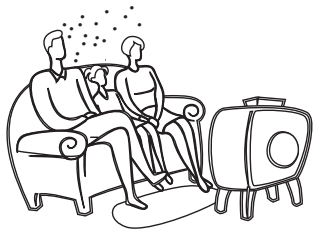
TB is a disease caused by germs that mostly affect the

lungs.

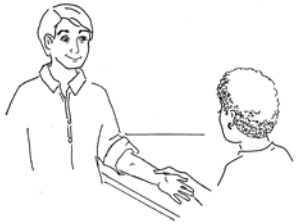
Do I have TB germs?

You may have TB germs in your body because you have spent time at home, work, school or other place with someone who is sick with TB.

A person who is sick with TB may cough a lot. Coughing sprays TB germs into the air where you can breathe them in.



How can I find out if I have TB germs?



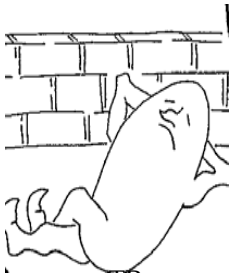
You need a TB test to see if you have TB germs in your body. You may need more than one TB test to make sure you do not have TB germs.

Am I OK if my first TB test is negative?

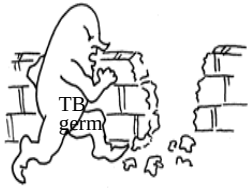
Even if your first TB test is negative, you still could have TB germs in your body. It can take time for your body to recognize the TB germ. You may need another test in a few weeks to make sure you do not have TB germs.

What if my TB test is positive?

If your TB test is positive 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**.



If the wall ever breaks down, the TB germs will escape and make you sick. This is called **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

There are pills to cure latent TB infection and active TB disease.

Steps to make sure you do not get sick with TB

- **Get a TB test.**
- **Return for your second TB test.**
- **Come in to see your doctor or nurse on**

Date: _____

Date: _____