

Keeping Kids Under Five Years Old Healthy After Exposure to Tuberculosis:

What Parents Need to Know

Tuberculosis (TB) spreads through the air. You can breathe in the germ that causes TB if you spend time with someone who is sick with TB. If a child under 5 years old breathes in the TB germ, they may become sick very quickly.

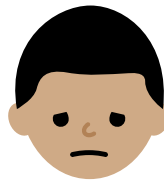
Coughing or having a fever for 2-3 weeks or more



Feeling sick, weak, or tired



Less playful than normal



Not eating or nursing well



Losing weight or not gaining weight



How can I keep my child healthy?

If you find out your child was in contact with someone sick with TB, reach out to your local public health department to help your child get the care they need. Testing and treatment can help keep your child healthy.

Your child should see a healthcare provider for a physical exam, chest X-ray, and a TB skin test or a TB blood test. The doctor may recommend medicine even if your child's test is negative.

Why are medications recommended if my child's TB test is negative?

It can take up to two months for a TB test to become positive after your child was exposed to the TB germ. It's important to give your child's body enough time to show whether they have breathed in TB. If their first TB test is negative, your child may need a second test in a few weeks.

There are medicines to protect young children while they wait for their second test. This treatment is called Window Preventive Treatment. Children younger than 5 years old are more likely to get sick quickly from TB, so early protection during this window period is very important.

How will my child feel while taking the TB Window Preventive Treatment?

Most children tolerate TB medications very well. If they have any symptoms that are concerning to you, please tell your child's doctor.

What will happen after the second TB test?

After the second test, your child's doctor will determine if they need to continue the medication.

