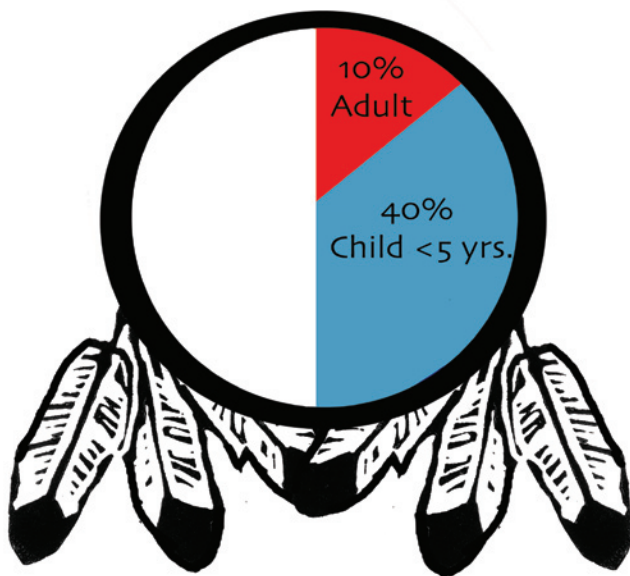


The symptoms of TB **disease** in adults are a cough with phlegm or blood, chest pain, weight loss, fever, night sweats, and feeling tired or weak. When children get sick with TB **disease** they do not have these common symptoms.



### Risks of Developing TB disease if a person has a latent TB infection

Adults with TB **infection** have a 10% chance of developing active TB **disease**.

Children with TB **infection** have up to a 40% chance of developing TB **disease**.

TB **infection** in babies can be safely treated.

TB **disease** in babies can be cured. Talk to the Community Health Nurse about having your baby tested for **TB**.

For Further Information About Tuberculosis in Young Children and Babies Please Contact Your Community Health Centre



### Tuberculosis Services for Aboriginal Communities

BC Centre for Disease Control  
655 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver BC V5Z 4R4  
Phone (604) 707-2696  
Fax (604) 707-2690  
[www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca)



**BC Centre for Disease Control**

*Funded by Health Canada,  
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch*

Preventing serious forms of Tuberculosis in First Nations children



Tuberculin skin testing of children 5 years of age and under

## Who should have a TB Skin Test?

It is suggested that babies born after June 1, 2003 have a TB Skin Test when they are 10 months old, 2, 3, 4, & 5 years old.

## Why Should Your Baby Have a TB Skin Test?

1. To find out if your baby has TB **infection**.
2. Young children who have a positive TB skin test or TB **infection** are more likely to develop TB **disease**.
3. When children get sick with TB **disease** they do not have the common symptoms. This makes it very difficult to detect TB **disease** in children.
4. TB **disease** in babies and children is much more likely to spread through the body and cause TB Meningitis. This form of TB is serious and if not treated may cause death.

## TB Skin Test

A TB skin test will show if your baby has breathed in the TB germ (TB **infection**.)

1. An injection of a small amount of protein fluid is given just underneath the skin. This will make a small bubble that will disappear in 5 – 10 minutes.
2. **Important!** You must bring your baby back in 2 – 3 days for the nurse to look at the baby's arm to find out if your baby has TB **infection**.

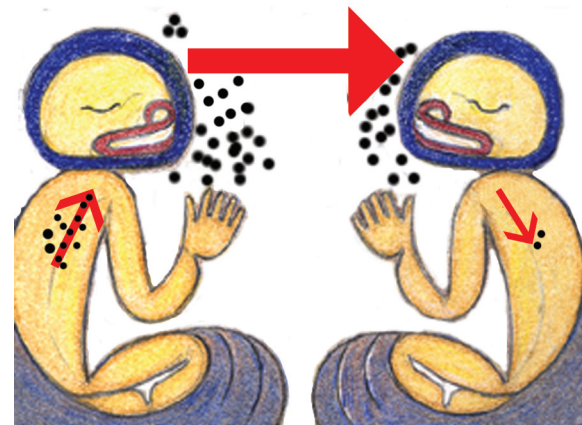
## Positive TB Skin Test

If your baby has a positive TB skin test (a bump on her arm):

1. The nurse will send your baby for a chest x-ray.
2. A TB doctor will check the x-ray for signs of TB **disease**.
3. A TB doctor will make a recommendation if your baby needs to be treated with medication. (TB medication is very safe for your baby).

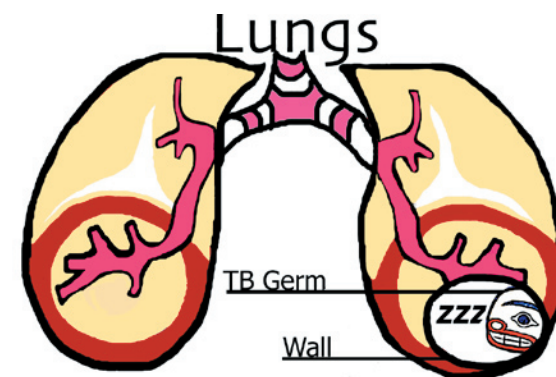
## How Do Babies Catch Tuberculosis (TB)?

1. A person with TB **disease** coughs the TB germs into the air.
2. If your baby is in the same room as a person with TB **disease** the baby may breathe the TB germ into his/her lungs.



1. Sick with TB disease 2. Baby breathes in TB germ

3. Your baby's body will fight back by building a wall around the TB germs. Usually the TB germs go to sleep.



4. The TB germs can wake up and make your baby sick.