

Pulmonary TB: TB Disease usually affects the lungs. This is the only type of TB that can be passed to others.

TB Disease can affect any part of the body such as the brain, blood, lymph nodes and the bladder.

TB Testing

Skin Test: A positive skin test means you have TB **Infection**. Persons with HIV should have regular skin tests. In a person with HIV/AIDS, the skin test might not react because the immune system is not working properly. A person with a negative skin test and TB symptoms should have further testing.

Chest X-ray: may show scars or disease.

Sputum: or “spit” is sent to the lab to test for TB. Other samples such as blood and urine may be sent to the lab.

Services Provided by TBSAC

- Management of TB Cases
- Consultative Services to Community Health Nurses
- Public Education Sessions
- Inservice Education to Community Health Nurses
- Community Skin Testing Surveys

For Further Information About Tuberculosis Please Contact Your Community Health Centre

or
TB Services for Aboriginal Communities
BC Centre for Disease Control
655 W 12th Ave
Vancouver BC V5Z 4R4

Telephone: (604) 707-2696
Fax: (604) 707-2690
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BC Centre for Disease Control
AN AGENCY OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

TUBERCULOSIS IN FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES

TB AND HIV



TB Services for Aboriginal Communities
Division of TB Control

TB & HIV/AIDS

Thirty percent of First Nations people over 30 years of age are **infected** with TB.

People infected with HIV & TB have a 100 times higher risk of developing TB **Disease**.

TB **Disease** may cause AIDS to get worse.

The good news is that **TB can be prevented and cured**.

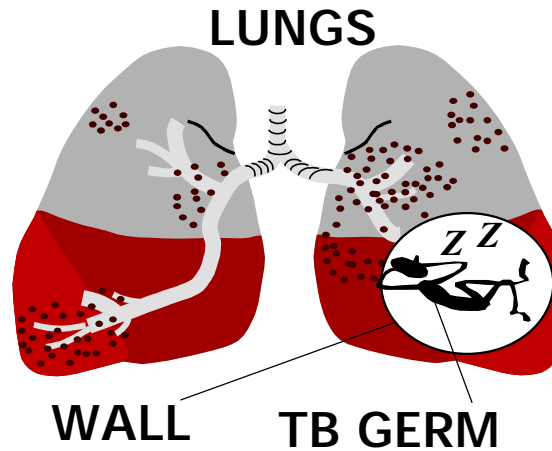
What is Tuberculosis (TB)

TB is a tiny germ which is passed into the air when a person with TB Disease coughs, sings, or shouts. The germ is



breathed into the lungs by a person in the same room. The body fights back by building a wall around the TB germs.

Most people do not get sick at this time. The germs “go to sleep”. This is TB **Infection**. A Person does not feel sick and can not make any one sick.



TB Infection & Prevention

A positive skin test means you have TB **Infection**. If your skin test is positive you may be recommended pills (Isoniazid) for 9 months to *prevent* TB disease. This decreases your chances of getting TB disease by 70%. Isoniazid (INH) can be safely taken with Anti Retro Viral (ARTs) medication taken for HIV/AIDS.

TB Disease

The TB germs can “wake up” at any time and make you sick but you are more likely to get TB **Disease** when your body is weak from:

- HIV/AIDS
- Diabetes
- Poor Nutrition
- cancer medications and steroids

Signs & Symptoms:

- Coughing for 2 weeks
- spitting up blood
- chest pain
- weight loss
- night sweats
- feeling tired or weak

If you have any of these symptoms you should ask your Doctor or Health Nurse about

Tuberculosis. Persons with HIV/AIDS are also at risk for pneumonia which can have the same symptoms as TB.