

Tuberculosis: The Basics



Signs and Symptoms of Tuberculosis

cough • night sweats • weight loss • chills, fever • appetite loss • tiredness

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

What is TB?

“TB” is short for a disease called tuberculosis. It causes disease in the lungs most of the time, but it can cause disease in any part of the body. A person with TB disease needs medical attention.

How is TB spread?

TB germs may spray into the air if a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs or sneezes. Anyone nearby can breathe the TB germs into their lungs.

What is TB infection?

TB germs can live in your body without making you sick. This is called TB infection. Someone with TB infection **cannot** spread TB to anyone, but TB infection can progress to TB disease if not treated with medication.

What is TB disease?

Sometimes the immune system cannot trap the TB germs and keep them from multiplying. This is TB disease. Someone with TB disease **can** spread TB to others.



**If you have any questions about TB, call the
The Pulaski County Health Center at 573-736-2217**