

Communities can work together to eliminate TB!



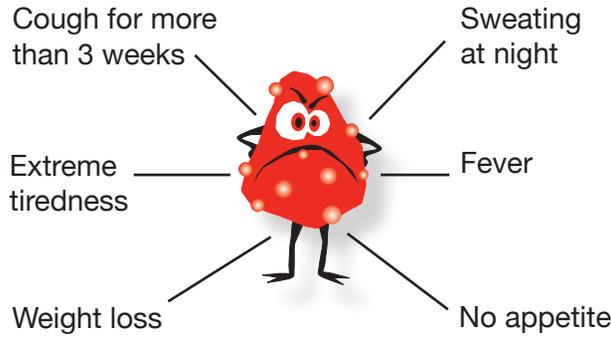
TB is CURABLE and PREVENTABLE...



Think TB!

TB disease...

the germ is awake and causing harm to the body. It can cause these symptoms...



For more information contact your local health centre



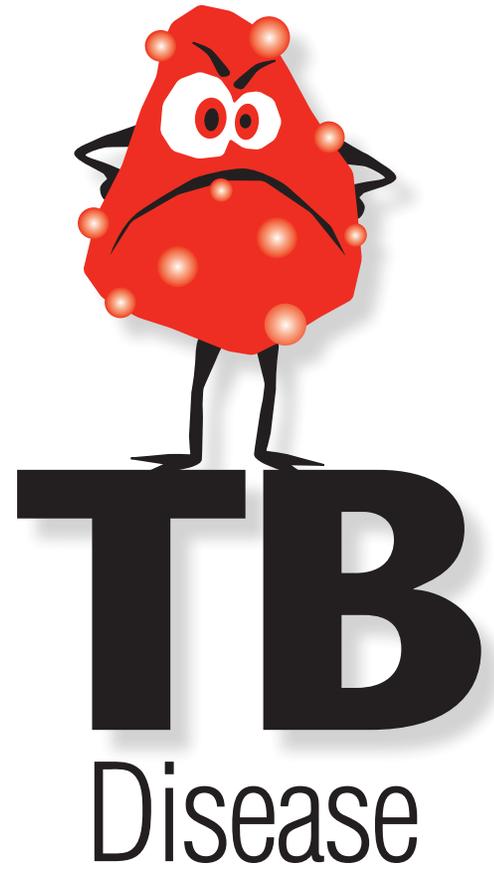
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Adapted with permission from The Lung Association, Alberta and NWT

2010

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What is tuberculosis (TB)?



TB is caused by bacteria (germs) and is spread when a person with **TB** disease of the lungs coughs the germs into the air. People sharing that air may breathe in the germs and develop either...

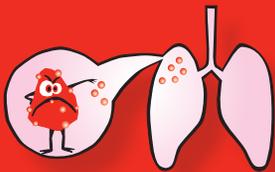


TB infection...

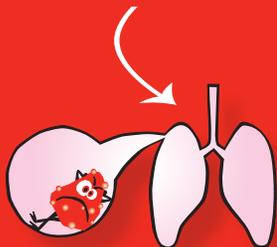


The germs are asleep, not causing damage and cannot be spread to others.

TB disease...



The germs are awake and causing damage. **TB** disease of the lungs can be spread to others.



The germs can wake up and cause **TB** disease later in life.

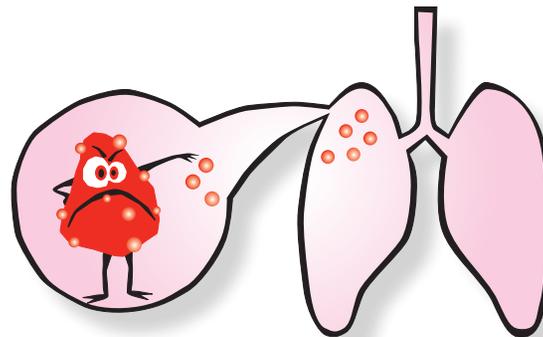
Can TB disease be cured?

YES! Taking **TB** medications kills the germ and cures **TB** disease. It is important to take your medication as directed for the medicine to work.

What does TB do to the body?

TB can occur almost anywhere in the body. It occurs most often in the lungs. Only **TB** of the lungs can be spread to others.

When **TB** germs start to grow, they cause hard lumps to form in the body. As more germs grow, the lumps get bigger and damage the area causing holes filled with blood and pus.

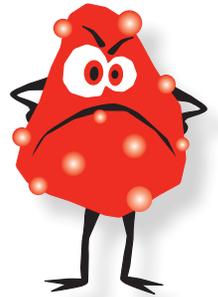


TB can be a serious illness, which can lead to death if not treated. Remember **TB** can be treated and is curable!



REMEMBER TB can be **TREATED** and is **CURABLE!**

Treatment of TB disease



- If you have **TB** disease you may need to take the first weeks of treatment in the hospital.
- Once you are no longer contagious, your treatment will be completed in your community.
- **TB** is treated with several special medications. Treatment usually lasts from 6–9 months.
- By taking medication until you are cured, you protect your family and friends from **TB**.
- A community nurse or **TB** worker may give each dose of your medication.
- Blood work will be done during treatment to make sure that your body is tolerating the **TB** medication.
- Other tests such as X-rays or specimen samples (such as sputum) may be required.
- Alcohol and drugs should be avoided during treatment because they make your liver work harder while on **TB** medications.

TB is **PREVENTABLE** and **CURABLE!**