

What is tuberculosis?

- An infection caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* that can infect any part of the body, but normally affects the lungs.

What are symptoms of tuberculosis?

- Symptoms of TB are extremely varied and usually depend upon which part of the body is affected
- Symptoms associated with TB of the lung, the most common form, include:
 - Fever
 - Weight loss
 - Cough with phlegm (sometimes with blood in it)
 - Breathlessness
 - Loss of appetite
 - Fatigue
 - Night sweats

How is it spread?

- TB is spread through the air when someone coughs or sneezes, or when someone comes in direct contact with nose or throat discharges from an infected person with active disease
- Person is less likely to spread TB disease once he/she is taking medication for at least two weeks
- Only about 5-10% of those infected with the TB germ ever develop TB disease

What should happen to those who have been in close contact with an infected person?

- People who have been in close contact with a person who has TB Disease should be monitored closely by a physician, tested for TB, and may require a course of treatment

What is the difference between Latent TB infection and TB disease?

- Latent TB infection: Individuals have TB germs in their bodies, but are not sick because the germs are not active. These people do not have symptoms and cannot spread the germ to others. However, they may develop TB disease in the future. They are prescribed treatment to prevent them from developing TB disease.
- TB disease: Individuals are sick from TB germs that are active, causing harm to their bodies. These people show symptoms of TB disease. People with TB disease of the lungs or throat are capable of spreading the germ to others. They are prescribed drugs that can treat TB disease.

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation, tuberculin skin test (TST), laboratory testing and chest x-ray
- Treatment is with several types of antibiotics for 6-12 months (follow physician's instructions exactly)

Should the sick individual be isolated?

- Yes, away from other people until after treatment has begun

Who should be notified of a case of TB?

- The Genesee County Health Department (257-1017) should be notified IMMEDIATELY.

When can the individual return to the general population?

- Following recommendation of physician

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department, 257-1017