
New York City Department of Health Clinics

Bronx and Staten Island

Morrisania Chest Center 1309 Fulton Avenue, Room 225, Bronx
Phone 718-901-6536 / 718-901-6538

Richmond Chest Center 51 Stuyvesant Place, Room 408, Staten Island
Phone 718-983-4525 / 718-983-4526

Brooklyn

Bedford Chest Center 485 Throop Avenue
Phone 718-574-2462 / 718-574-2463

Brownsville Chest Center 259 Bristol Street
Phone 718-495-7258 / 718-495-7256

Bushwick Chest Center 335 Central Avenue
Phone 718-573-4886 / 718-573-4889

Fort Greene Chest Center 295 Flatbush Avenue Extension
Phone 718-643-8357 / 718-643-6551

Manhattan

Chelsea Chest Center 303 Ninth Avenue
Phone 212-239-1749 / 212-239-1758

Washington Heights Chest Center 600 W. 168th Street, 3rd Floor
Phone 212-304-5434 / 212-304-5435

Queens

Corona Chest Center 34-33 Junction Blvd.
Phone 718-476-7635 / 718-476-7636

Far Rockaway Chest Center 67-10 Rockaway Beach Blvd, Room 201
Phone 718-474-2100 / 718-474-2101



New York City Department of Health
Tuberculosis Control Program

CONTACT
WITH
TB

My Chest Center

Phone:

Directions:

Hours:

Other:

Contact with TB: What You Should Know

What is TB?

TB (tuberculosis) is a serious disease that hurts the lungs. However, TB can be prevented with treatment. TB can also be cured.

How Are TB Germs Spread?

TB germs are spread through the air. If you spend a long time with someone who is sick with TB, you may breathe in TB germs. This happens when the person coughs, sneezes, speaks, or laughs.

TB germs are spread only through the air. They are not spread by shaking hands or by sitting on a toilet seat. You must breathe in TB germs for them to enter your body.

There Are Two Kinds of TB:

Latent TB. Most of the time your body protects you from TB germs. It builds a wall around the germs and stops them from hurting your lungs. This makes the germs go to sleep. Sleeping TB germs are called "latent TB." If you have latent TB, you won't feel sick. You can not spread TB to other people.

Active TB. Sometimes TB germs wake up and your body can not protect you. When this happens, you have active TB. If you have active TB you are likely to feel sick. You can spread TB to other people.

People with active TB may have the following symptoms:

- ✓ Coughing for 3 weeks or more
- ✓ Sweating at night
- ✓ Feeling tired all the time
- ✓ Fever or chills
- ✓ Weight loss
- ✓ Appetite loss

What if I Have Spent Time with Someone Who Has TB?

If you have spent a long time with someone who has active TB, you might have breathed in TB germs. You should get a TB skin test. The skin test is an easy way to tell if the TB germs are in your body.

If the test is "negative," you most likely do not have TB germs in your body. If the test is "positive," you have TB germs in your body. A "positive" test means you will need a chest x-ray and a medical check-up. These will show

What if I Had the BCG Vaccine?

BCG vaccine does not usually protect people against TB. You may still get latent TB or active TB. Even if you have had BCG vaccine, you will need a TB skin test.

Do I Need Treatment if I Have Active TB?

Yes. Active TB is cured with medicine. If you have active TB, you will have to take medicine for at least 6 months.

TB Can Be Prevented

Do I Need Treatment if I Have Latent TB?

Yes. If you have latent TB, the germs are in your body. You do not feel sick because the germs are asleep. If the TB germs wake up, you will have active TB. You can become very sick. Medicine for latent TB kills the germs before they wake up and make you sick.

Treatment is very important if you got latent TB within the last 2 years.

What is the Treatment for Latent TB?

There are many medicines for latent TB. Your doctor will decide which one is the best for you. Treatment lasts from 2 months to 9 months. It is important that you finish the treatment.

Can I Spend Time With Family and Friends if I Have Latent TB?

Yes. If you have latent TB, you can not spread TB to other people. You can work and go to school. You can not spread TB to your children or family.

Will I Need Regular Check-ups?

Yes. If you are being treated for latent TB, you must come to the clinic to:

- ✓ Get your medicine
- ✓ Make sure you are not having any side effects
- ✓ Ask any questions you have

Can the Department of Health Help Me?

Yes. We have 10 clinics that provide many TB services.

At our clinics, you do not need health insurance. All services are free. You do not need to worry about immigration. No one will ask about your status. Our clinics provide high quality care. Our staff speaks