

Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Chest Centers

Bronx and Staten Island

Morrisania Chest Center 1309 Fulton Avenue, 1st Floor, Bronx
Phone 718-579-4157 / 718-579-4163

Richmond Chest Center 51 Stuyvesant Place, 4th Floor, Staten Island
Phone 718-420-1028 / 718-420-1167

Brooklyn

Bedford Chest Center 485 Throop Avenue, 3rd Floor
Phone 718-574-2462 / 718-574-2463

Brownsville Chest Center 259 Bristol Street, 3rd Floor
Phone 718-495-7258 / 718-495-8281

Bushwick Chest Center 335 Central Avenue, 2nd Floor
Phone 718-573-4886 / 718-573-4891

Fort Greene Chest Center 295 Flatbush Avenue Extension, 4th Floor
Phone 718-643-8357 / 718-643-8358

Manhattan

Chelsea Chest Center 303 Ninth Avenue, 3rd Floor
Phone 212-239-1757 / 212-239-1790

Washington Heights Chest Center 600 W. 168th Street, 3rd Floor
Phone 212-368-4500

Queens

Corona Chest Center 34-33 Junction Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Phone 718-476-7635 / 718-476-7636

Far Rockaway Chest Center 67-10 Rockaway Beach Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Phone 718-474-2100 / 718-474-2101

Jamaica Chest Center 90-37 Parsons Boulevard, 4th Floor
Phone 718-262-5539

My Chest Center

Phone:

Directions:

Hours:

Other:

Check-ups Are Important

You must come to the center to:

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



New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Bureau of Tuberculosis Control



**CONTACT
WITH
TB**

Contact with TB: What You Should Know



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.

What Happens When Someone Has TB?

When you first breathe TB germs into your lungs, your body protects you by building a wall around the germs. This makes the germs go to “sleep” and stops them from hurting your body. Sleeping TB germs are called “latent TB,” and people with latent TB are said to have **latent TB infection (LTBI)**. Latent TB germs can stay asleep for a long time, sometimes for life. People with LTBI won't feel sick. They cannot spread TB to other people.

However, sometimes TB germs “wake up” and your body cannot protect you. When this happens, you have **active TB disease**. This can make you feel very sick. You can also spread TB to other people.

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. Also, if you are in contact with someone who has active TB, you may need to get tested. 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 if you have latent TB or active TB.

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 Health Department Help Me?

Yes. We have Chest Centers that provide many TB services.

At our centers, 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 centers provide high quality care. Our staff speaks many languages. We can answer your questions about TB. We can prevent TB.