

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:

Monthly Check-ups Are Important

You must come to the center to:

- ✓ Get the next month's supply of 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



STOP TB

Anyone Can Get TB

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. If you breathe in TB germs, you may have TB.

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.

How Do I Know if I Have Latent TB?

If you live in an area where there is a lot of active TB, you may breathe in TB germs and get latent TB.

Areas Where there is a lot of Active TB:

- ✓ Latin America
- ✓ Eastern Europe
- ✓ Caribbean
- ✓ Africa
- ✓ Asia

If you live or used to live in one of these places, you may have latent TB.

Is There a Test for Latent TB?

Yes. There is a simple TB skin test. If the test is “negative,” you most likely do not have latent TB. If the test is “positive,” you have TB germs in your body. You will need a medical check-up to see if you have latent TB or active TB.

Should I Get the TB Skin Test?

Probably. You are at high risk for latent TB if:

- ✓ You have spent a long time with someone who has active TB
- ✓ You have come to the U.S. recently from Latin America, Caribbean, Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa or another area with a lot of TB
- ✓ You have worked or stayed in a nursing home, homeless shelter, prison, or other group setting

Other People Who Need a TB Skin Test are Those Who Have:

- ✓ Symptoms of active TB
- ✓ Certain illnesses such as diabetes or chronic kidney failure
- ✓ HIV/AIDS

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, you will need a TB skin test.

TB Can Be Prevented

Do I Need Treatment for Latent TB?

Yes. When you have latent TB, the germs are sleeping in your body. You do not feel sick. 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.

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, family, or friends.

Can the Health Department Help Me With TB?

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.