

# Tuberculosis Infections

## Information for schools and workplaces

### Raising Awareness About Tuberculosis Symptoms

Tuberculosis (TB) is a lung infection that is spread when someone coughs or sneezes the bacteria into the air. You can get TB by inhaling air containing the TB bacteria. For this to happen, you usually need to be in close contact with someone who has TB.

TB usually affects the lungs, but it can also affect other body parts.

## HOW TB spreads



Coughing



Sneezing

## WHAT TO DO if you are sick

If you think you might have TB or if you've been around someone who has it, it's a good idea to see a health care provider.

You may be asked to:



Have a TB skin test



Go for a chest x-ray



Give phlegm samples

Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) or Tuberculosis (TB) follow-up will not affect your permanent resident status

If you have questions regarding TB, please call VCH Communicable Disease Control at 604-675-3900.

## SYMPTOMS of TB



Unexplained weight loss



Extreme fatigue



Shortness of breath or chest pain



A cough that lasts more than three weeks



Fever



Drenching night sweats



Coughing up blood



Swollen lymph nodes

## GETTING TREATED for TB

Cough and other symptoms can be caused by a variety of things. If you have TB, **it is treatable** and your doctor might want you to take antibiotics. Make sure you take your medications as prescribed and finish the full course of your prescription.

*Note: All TB related services are **free** for anyone living in BC, regardless of whether they are enrolled in the Medical Services Plan (MSP). MSP is recommended for all residents of B.C., including international students who have lived in the province for 6 months.*

For more information on MSP and how to enrol, visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents/eligibility-and-enrolment/apply-for-msp>

