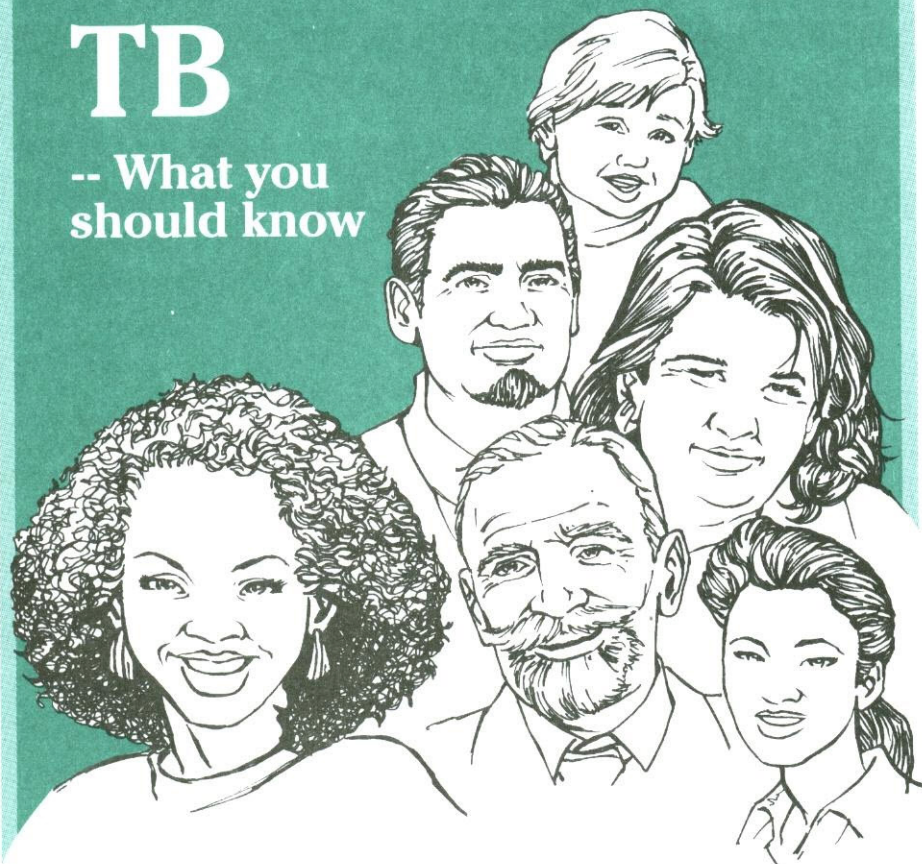


TB

-- What you
should know



Resource ID: 6030

TB - What You Should Know / Tuberculosis: Lo
Que Usted Debe Saber

TB stands for tuberculosis.

It is an illness that harms the lungs. It can also harm other parts of the body.

TB is caused by a germ.

The germ is spread through the air.

Some people with TB germs do not look or feel sick.

Their TB germs are not active. The germs may stay that way for a short time -- or for years.

If the TB germs become active, the person may:

- cough a lot
- feel weak
- have a fever
- lose weight
- cough up blood
- sweat a lot at night.



A person with active TB can pass TB germs to others.

TB germs get into the air.

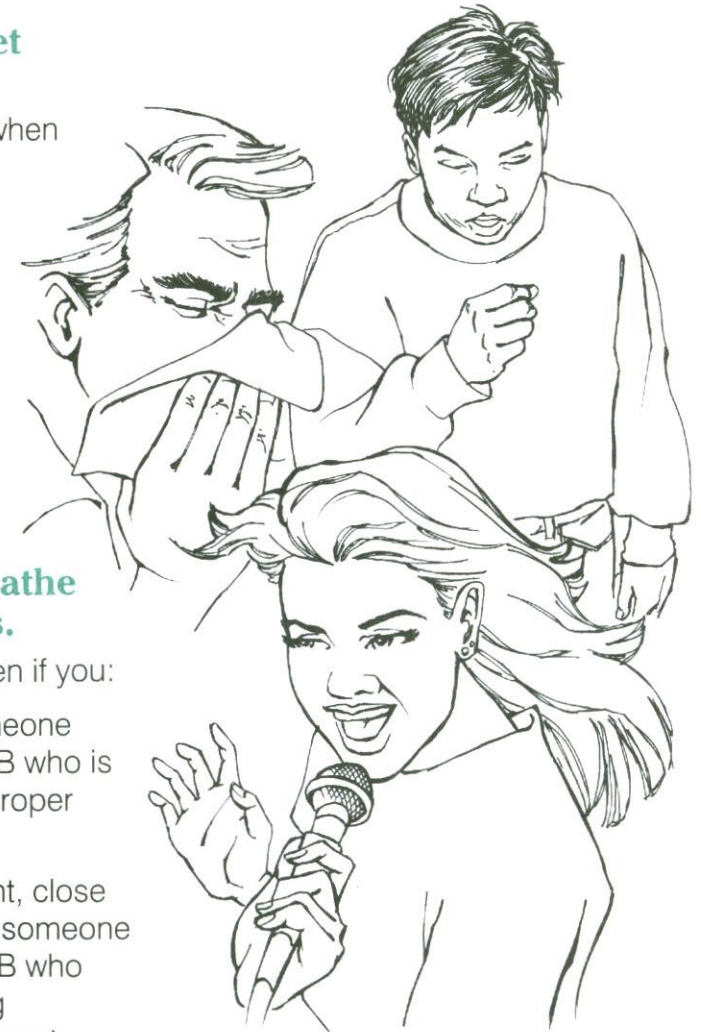
This happens when someone with active TB:

- coughs
- sneezes
- laughs
- sings
- talks.

You can breathe in TB germs.

This can happen if you:

- live with someone with active TB who is not getting proper treatment
- have frequent, close contact with someone with active TB who is not getting proper treatment.



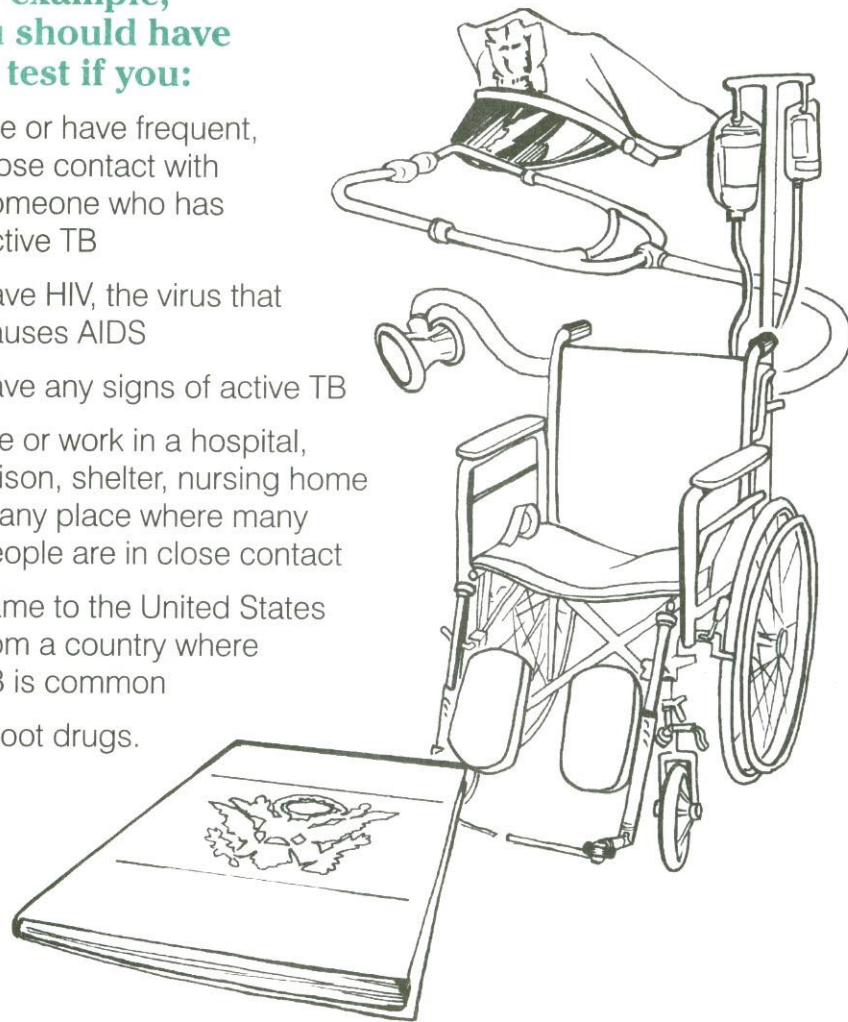
A TB skin test can tell if you have TB germs.

This booklet gives some important facts about TB. But it does not take the place of a talk with your health-care provider.

Certain people should have the TB skin test.

For example, you should have the test if you:

- live or have frequent, close contact with someone who has active TB
- have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS
- have any signs of active TB
- live or work in a hospital, prison, shelter, nursing home -- any place where many people are in close contact
- came to the United States from a country where TB is common
- shoot drugs.



Getting tested could help save your life!

TB skin testing is simple.

You will get an injection.

- The injection goes just under your skin.
- You will need to have your skin test checked in 2 or 3 days. Be sure to return when you are asked to.



Understand the test results.

- A negative result means you probably do not have TB germs. You may need another test to make sure.
- A positive result means you probably have TB germs. You may need treatment.

Tell your health-care provider if you have HIV.

- You may need different tests to check for TB.
- It may be dangerous to take some HIV medicines with some TB medicines.

Most cases of TB can be cured!

If you have a positive TB skin test, you may need:

- a chest X-ray
- other tests.



These tests will tell your health-care provider:

- if your TB germs are active or not active
- if you need medicine, and what kind.

Medicine can keep TB from becoming active. It can also cure TB if it is already active.

Your health-care provider may also want you to get tested for HIV.

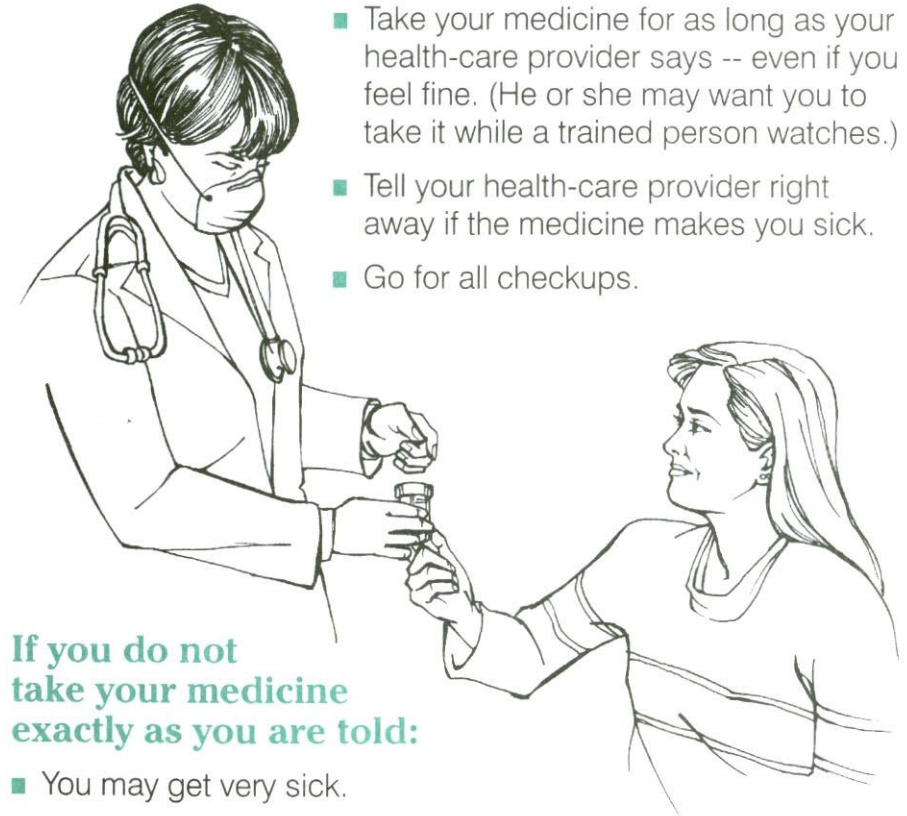
People with HIV:

- are more likely to get active TB
- may take longer to be cured of TB.

TB medicine is the only way to cure TB.

Be sure to:

- Take your medicine for as long as your health-care provider says -- even if you feel fine. (He or she may want you to take it while a trained person watches.)
- Tell your health-care provider right away if the medicine makes you sick.
- Go for all checkups.



If you do not take your medicine exactly as you are told:

- You may get very sick.
- Your TB germs may become resistant to the TB medicine. This means the medicine may not work.
- Your treatment may take longer.
- You may never get well.
- You could spread TB to others.

Follow your treatment plan -- and beat TB!

Tell your health-care provider if you are not taking your TB medicine. He or she can help.