



WHAT IS TUBERCULOSIS?

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious air-borne disease that mainly affects the lungs. It is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and is spread by inhaling tiny droplets from the coughs or sneezes of a person with TB disease. There are two forms: latent TB infection (LTBI) and active TB disease.

WHAT IS THE BURDEN OF TB?¹

TB is one of the top infectious disease killers in the world.

10 million
people fall ill with TB each year

1.4 million
people die from TB each year

1/4

of the global population is infected with latent tuberculosis



10-15%

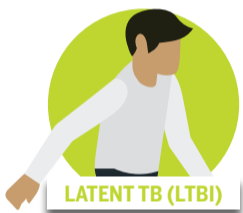
will go on to develop TB disease

WHAT ARE THE TWO FORMS OF TB?²

TB INFECTION

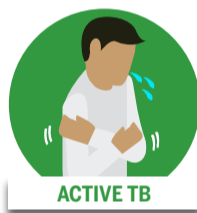
90 to 95% of people infected with TB develop immunity and do not develop the disease. This form is known as **latent TB infection**.

5 to 10% of people infected with TB develop **active TB disease**.



LATENT TB (LTBI)

10 to 15% of people with latent TB infection will progress to **active TB disease**.



ACTIVE TB

LATENT TB (LTBI)

A person with latent TB infection

- has TB bacteria which do not multiply
- is not sick & has no symptoms
- cannot spread TB to others

ACTIVE TB

A person with active TB disease

- has TB bacteria which actively multiply
- is sick & has symptoms
- can spread TB to others



HOW DOES TB SPREAD?³

TB is spread through the air by inhaling tiny droplets from the coughs or sneezes of a person with active TB disease.

1 person can infect 15 others.



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF TB DISEASE?³



Night sweats



A cough for 2 weeks or more and fever



Unexpected weight loss

HOW IS TB DIAGNOSED?⁴

LATENT TB (LTBI)



Tuberculin Skin Test (TST)



Blood Test (TB IGRA*)

ACTIVE TB



Clinical Symptoms



Chest X-Ray



Lab Tests

*IGRA: interferon gamma release assay

HOW IS TB PREVENTED?⁵

A vaccine exists (Bacille Calmette-Guérin or BCG) but has limited effectiveness for preventing TB disease.

Diagnosing people with latent TB infection is important to prevent progression to active TB disease and help stop the spread of TB.

HOW IS TB TREATED?^{3,6}



LATENT TB (LTBI)

Treatment can prevent progression to active TB disease

ACTIVE TB

Treatment can stop the disease

TB is curable if well diagnosed and treated appropriately with antibiotics.

- Treatment is long-term: 4 months to 2 years.
- It is very important to complete the full course to prevent the bacteria from becoming resistant to the treatment.

References:

1. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/tb/WTBD2019infographics.pdf>
2. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/infographic/default.htm>
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