

Tuberculosis



WHAT IS IT?

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium that spreads through the air from an infectious person to another when they cough, speak or sing. Close contacts of sick people and those with weakened immune systems are most at risk. The bacteria settle in the lungs and throat where they grow, then spread through the blood to other parts of the body. TB doesn't always cause symptoms if the infected person's body fights to prevent its growth. This is called latent TB which cannot be transmitted, but the infected person will usually test positive and needs treatment to prevent TB disease which occurs 10% of the time.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

- **1/3** of the global population is infected.
- **9 million** new cases are diagnosed annually.
- **~10,000** of these occur in the US each year; the majority occur in developing nations.
- **2 million** deaths result from TB each year
- **2 to 12 weeks**: the incubation time period

Additionally:

- There are increasing reports of multi-drug **resistant** strains of TB circulating.
- The treatment regimen is **complex**.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS



BLOOD COUGH



FEVER



CHEST PAIN



CHILLS



LONG-TERM COUGH



WEIGHT LOSS



FATIGUE



NIGHT SWEATS
#223021

WHAT DO I DO ABOUT IT?

Because prolonged exposure to persons ill with TB can lead to infection:

1. Screening of high-risk populations should be considered.
2. Although casual contact is not believed to be a significant risk factor, anyone exposed to TB should be tested to determine if medical care is needed.
3. Patients must strictly adhere to medical protocols following advice from medical professionals; medications usually need to be taken for as long as 6 months.
4. There is a vaccine available, used in countries with high rates of TB. It is not typically given in the US, given the low rates of illness.

TAG Public Health Experts have the experience and expertise to help companies and institutions successfully integrate science-driven public health approaches into their business strategy.