

TUBERCULOSIS PARENT FACT SHEET

PARENT/GUARDIAN

Your child may have been exposed to: TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis (TB) is a bacterial infection that usually affects the lungs but can affect any part of the body. TB can be life-threatening, but it is curable with antibiotic medications.

Tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Need to stay home?

Yes, until considered non-infectious. Consult with the local TB clinic or the health authority.

Young children, who lack the capacity to cough forcefully, typically are not as contagious as adults. If a case of tuberculosis is suspected, a complete medical evaluation is needed, to include medical history, physical examination, TB screening tests, and when applicable a chest X-ray and diagnostic microbiology tests.

Symptoms TB is a disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB disease should be suspected in persons who have the following symptoms:

- Unexplained weight loss, loss of appetite, night sweats, fever, and fatigue.

If TB disease is in the lungs (pulmonary), symptoms may include:

- Coughing for ≥ 3 weeks, hemoptysis (coughing up blood), and chest pain.

If TB disease is in other parts of the body (extrapulmonary), symptoms will depend on the area affected.

Spread When someone who is sick with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, speaks, laughs, sings, or sneezes. Anyone near the sick person with TB disease can breathe TB bacteria into their lungs.

Contagious Period Only active TB disease of the lungs or voice box (larynx) is contagious. The contagious period varies from person to person, but usually from when the symptoms begin until the person has completed several weeks of adequate treatment. TB disease in other parts of the body is usually not contagious.

Call your Healthcare Provider If anyone in your home:

- Was exposed to someone with infectious TB.
- Develops symptoms consistent with T (see above). DO NOT go to a healthcare facility without calling first. The ill person will be kept separate from others to prevent further spread.

Prevention

- Persons exposed to active, infectious TB disease should have a TB screening test performed. If the first TB test is negative, another TB test may be needed in 6-8 weeks to determine if infection has occurred.
- If you have been infected with TB but are not ill from it (latent TB infection) you may need medicine to prevent the infection from becoming TB disease later.
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing. Use a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues.

For more information, please contact your local health department.

[Carson City Health & Human Services](#) (Carson City, Douglas, Lyon Counties) 775-434-1690 & 775-887-2190 (after hours)

[Central Nevada Health District](#) (Churchill, Mineral, Eureka, Pershing Counties) 775-866-7535

[Northern Nevada Public Health](#) (Washoe County) 775-328-2447 (24 hours)

[Southern Nevada Health District](#) (Clark County) 775-759-1300 (24 hours)

[Division of Public and Behavioral Health](#) (All other Counties) 775-400-0333 (24 hours)

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