



TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

Description

- TB is an infection that can infect any part of the body, usually the lungs

Cause

- A bacterium (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*)

What to expect

Symptoms of TB are extremely varied and usually depend upon which part of the body is affected. Symptoms associated with TB of the lung, the most common form include:

- Fever
- Weight loss
- Cough with phlegm (sometimes with blood in it)
- Breathlessness
- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue
- Night sweats

Is it contagious?

- Generally, TB is spread through the air when someone coughs or sneezes, or when someone comes in direct contact with nose or throat discharges from an infected person
- In general, TB of the lung is not infectious several weeks after an infected person has started treatment
- Children are generally not contagious

What should happen to those who have been in close contact with an infected person?

- People who have been in close contact with a person who has TB should be monitored closely by a physician, and may require a course of treatment

How is it diagnosed?

- Physician evaluation
- Laboratory work

Should the sick child be isolated?

- Yes, away from other people until after treatment has begun.

Who should be notified of a case of TB?

- The Health Department (**257-1017**) should be notified immediately

Genesee County Health Department
630 S. Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan 48502
<http://health.co.genesee.mi.us>

When can the child return to day care or school?

- Following recommendation of physician

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department, 257-1017

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information, call your health care provider.

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