

Why should I be tested for Latent Tuberculosis (TB) Infection?

Overview of Testing & Treatment Options

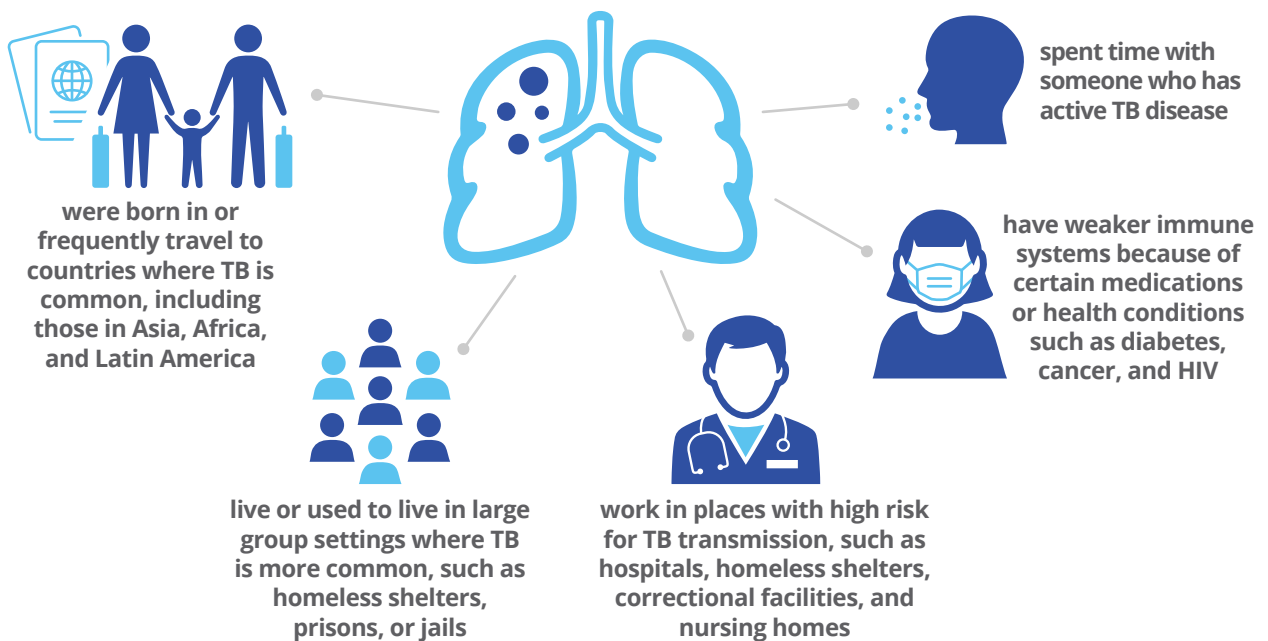
Tuberculosis, or TB disease, is highly contagious and can be deadly. TB can live in your body for years without symptoms. This is called inactive TB or latent TB infection. Inactive TB can become active anytime and make you sick. **Getting tested for inactive TB can protect yourself, your family and friends, and your community.**

1

Know your risk

Millions of people in the United States have inactive TB but don't know it. Even if you feel healthy now, TB germs in your body can become active, multiply, and cause TB disease.

Anyone can get TB, but you are a higher risk for TB if you:



You may be at risk for TB even if you have received the TB vaccine (also called the BCG vaccine) because its protection weakens over time.

2

Get tested



TB Blood Test



TB Skin Test

CDC recommends that people at risk for TB get tested. Talk to your healthcare provider about whether the TB blood test or the skin test is right for you.

- If you have ever received a vaccine for TB, also called the BCG vaccine, your healthcare provider will recommend that you have the TB blood test. The blood test measures how your immune system reacts to the germs that cause TB.
- For the skin test, a small needle is used to put some testing material under the skin. You will need to return to your healthcare provider in 2-3 days to see if there is a reaction.

3

Complete your treatment

If you have inactive TB, treatment options are available that can help protect you and your loved ones from getting sick.

Short and convenient 3- or 4-month treatments are available.

Completing your treatment is important to prevent active TB disease, so talk to your healthcare provider about your medications and ask about community resources that can support you in your treatment plan.



Public and private healthcare plans may cover testing and treatment for TB infection.



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
National Center for HIV/AIDS,
Viral Hepatitis, STD, and
TB Prevention

WWW.CDC.GOV/TB

[campaign mark to come]