

Tuberculosis (TB) screening

TB Nursing Service

Information for Patients

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What is tuberculosis (TB)?

Tuberculosis (TB) is a curable, infectious disease caused by bacteria called mycobacterium tuberculosis. You can have TB in your lungs (pulmonary TB). You can also have it in other parts of the body, such as the kidneys, bones, glands or brain.

TB can spread by tiny droplets that carry the TB bacteria. These droplets are made when an infected person coughs or sneezes. If you breathe in these droplets, the bacteria can start a new infection.

A person who has TB in the lungs and airways is infectious. TB elsewhere in the body is not infectious to other people.

TB makes you ill slowly. After you are exposed to the infection you may not have any symptoms. Many people who become infected do not become ill. The infection heals itself in a few weeks or months without treatment. The TB bacteria stays in the body not active. It can still make you ill later.

All TB screening and treatment is free.

What is latent TB infection?

You can have TB in your body which is not active. This means you are well and the bacteria cannot be passed on. This is called latent TB infection. Treatment can still be needed to stop the spread of the TB disease in the future.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

What if I feel completely well?

You should still get a screening test done as you can have TB or latent TB infection. This is even if you feel completely well.

What if I had a chest X-ray in my own country or at the airport?

A chest X-ray cannot rule out latent TB infection or TB. It can be in other areas of the body that are not the lungs.

How will the screening test be done?

You will have a:

- symptom check,
- chest X-ray,
- TB blood test (children will get a TB skin test)

We might need to do more than one set of screening a few weeks apart.

Symptoms to look out for:

- A cough that lasts for 3 weeks or longer
- Fevers and high temperatures
- Sweating at night
- Weight loss and loss of appetite for no reason
- Extreme tiredness, lack of energy and fatigue for no reason
- Coughing up blood (this is very rare. Get medical advice right away.)

If you are worried about any of these things please contact the TB nurses before your appointment for more advice.

What if I have been treated for TB in the past?

Please tell us when you come for your appointment. It is still important to attend.

What if I have had TB screening before?

Please tell us when you come for your appointment.

What if other family members have not had appointments for screening?

Please contact us before the appointment.

Can I carry on with my day to day activities?

Do not stop your daily activities. Even if you have been with a person who has infectious TB. You only have a small chance of getting TB infection.

There is no need to take time off work or school.

Who do I ask if I have questions?

Please contact the TB Nursing Service **0116 258 3767**.

At times the phone may not be answered. Leave a message with your name and phone number and we will call you back.

Contact details:

TB Nursing Service: 0116 258 3767

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

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