



# Public Notice

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## WHAT IS TUBERCULOSIS?

Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne disease that affects the lungs and can also affect the brain, kidneys, or spine. TB can be fatal, if left untreated.

## HOW IS TB SPREAD?

TB is spread when an affected person coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings and affect the air around them. Those who breathe the affected air in for prolonged periods of time can become infected.

### SYMPTOMS

- **COUGHING > 3 WEEKS**
- **CHEST PAIN**
- **FEELING TIRED AND WEAK**
- **UNEXPLAINED WEIGHT LOSS AND LOSS OF APPETITTE**
- **FEVER**
- **NIGHT SWEATS**
- **CHILLS**

### Latent TB infection

- **Not contagious**
- **NO symptoms**
- **Germs are not active**
- **Given medication to prevent developing TB disease**

### TB disease

- **Contagious**
- **Shows symptoms**
- **Germs are active and can be spread**
- **Given medication to treat the TB disease**

## If You Were Exposed...

People with every day contact, such as family members or classmates are at highest risk. If you have been exposed to someone who has TB disease for prolonged amounts of time (typically 6 hours or greater), **you should go to your doctor or your local health department for tests.**

## How to Diagnose...

*Getting tested for TB is a multi-step process:*

1. Skin test – A small amount of fluid injected into the skin. A healthcare worker will check the injection site in 2 days to look for a reaction.

*If an initial test comes back reactive, or positive, further testing is required to see if the person has latent TB infection (not contagious), or the TB disease (contagious).*

2. Chest X-ray – A healthcare worker will check for anything abnormal in the lungs.
3. Sputum (culture for TB) – Cultures are sent off to a lab to help confirm or rule out active TB disease.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Denton County Health Department  
<http://dentoncounty.com/health>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
<http://www.cdc.gov>