

Tuberculosis facts:

- TB is easily prevented and cured with medication.
- TB is an illness caused by bacteria, and the disease is spread when someone with “active” tuberculosis coughs out the germs, and someone else breathes them in.
- Most people who are exposed to the bacteria will never get sick because their body can keep the germs from growing.
- Some people will develop “active” tuberculosis disease. This means they become sick with symptoms like coughing for more than three weeks, unexplained weight loss, fever, night sweats and coughing up blood.
- Only people with “active” TB are capable of spreading the disease to others.
- It is not easy to contract TB. Spreading the disease requires continued close contact in a confined space. Sitting near someone on a bus or in a restaurant is not usually enough for the disease to spread. Also, TB does not spread via surfaces like doorknobs or by sharing a water bottle or utensils.
- There are about 1,500 cases of active tuberculosis disease in Texas every year.
- TB is completely curable with modern antibiotics.

*Compiled from: Department of Health and Human Services
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/tb*