

FactSheet

Para Su Información

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious bacterial disease that usually infects the lungs, but can infect other body parts, such as the kidney, spine or brain. TB is either latent or active, and is spread through the air from one person to another.

People with latent TB do not feel sick, do not have symptoms and are not contagious. They may develop active TB when their immune systems become weak.

People with active TB have symptoms, may be contagious and need medication.

Facts about tuberculosis

- In Nevada, there were 90 new cases of active TB and 1,500 cases of latent TB in 2006.
- If not treated properly, TB disease can be fatal.

Symptoms

TB in the lungs may cause:

- A bad cough that lasts two weeks or longer
- Chest pain
- Coughing up blood or sputum (phlegm from deep inside the lungs)
- Weakness or fatigue

- Loss of appetite
- Chills
- Fever
- Night sweats

Testing

The only way to diagnose TB is by a blood test or skin test, though it can take 2-10 weeks after exposure for a skin test to react as positive. An X-ray or sputum sample is then needed to diagnose the tuberculosis as latent or active.

Information for employers

During the first few weeks of diagnosis and treatment, people with active TB need to stay home from work and wear a mask to prevent spreading the disease to people in their home.

Treatment

Active TB is almost always cured with medicine.

For more information

Contact the Workplace Vaccination Program at (702) 759-0878 or WPV@snhdmail.org; or visit www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org.



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