

Looking for more info
about TB?



Check out these sites!

**Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention**
www.cdc.gov

**New York State
Department of Health**
www.health.ny.gov

**Ontario County
Public Health**
<https://ontariocountyny.gov>

Ontario County Public Health

3019 County Complex Dr.
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Phone 585-396-4343
Fax 585-396-4551

<https://ontariocountyny.gov>



3/2/2022

OCPH



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Ontario County, NY

Tuberculosis

Screening and Treatment



*TB Anywhere Is TB
Everywhere*

Ontario County Public Health

Tuberculosis (TB)

TB is a serious disease that affects the lungs and sometimes other parts of the body. TB bacteria are spread through the air when a person who is actively sick with TB coughs, sneezes or speaks. People nearby may breathe in bacteria and become infected. Thankfully, not everyone who breathes in TB bacteria becomes sick.

There are two TB-related conditions: latent TB infection and active TB disease.



A blood sample or skin test (above) is used to find out if a person has latent TB infection.

Latent TB Infection

People with latent TB infection have a few inactive TB germs in their lungs. They are not sick (no symptoms of TB) and they cannot give the germs to anyone else. Their healthy immune systems keep the TB bacteria from growing and spreading.

It is estimated, 10-15 million people in the US have latent TB infection. Most of them will **never get sick** from the TB germs hiding in their bodies. A few (about 5-10%), however, will develop active TB disease. Giving antibiotics to people with latent TB infection can prevent them from getting sick in the future.

Active TB Disease

When a person's immune system cannot keep the TB bacteria from growing, TB is said to be active. People with active TB disease may have persistent coughing, fevers, night sweats, chest pain, loss of appetite, and



weight loss. They may even cough up blood. Active TB disease may spread to others and needs to be treated with antibiotics as soon as possible.

In Ontario County, anyone who receives treatment for latent TB infection or active TB disease is closely followed by one of our Public Health Nurses. He or she provides medication and monitors for side effects; assesses the response to treatment; and provides education.

About 10-15 million Americans have latent TB infection. Giving antibiotics to people with latent TB can prevent them from getting sick.