



Think Tuberculosis (TB)

Tuberculosis is a disease caused by bacteria that can attack any part of the body, but it usually attacks the lungs. TB bacteria is spread through the air when a person coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings. TB is treatable, and it is very important for people who have TB disease to be treated, finish the medicine, and take the drugs exactly as prescribed. Not everyone with TB bacteria becomes sick. People with TB infection do not have symptoms and cannot spread it to others. Treatment will reduce the risk of the TB bacteria becoming active later on. If not treated, TB disease can be fatal.

What are the symptoms?

- Bad cough that last three weeks or longer
- Pain in the chest
- Coughing up blood or phlegm from deep inside the lungs
- Weakness or fatigue
- Weight loss
- No appetite
- Chills
- Fever
- Sweating at night

Who is at risk?

- Close contacts of someone who has TB disease
- People with medical conditions that weaken the immune system (make it harder to fight infections)
- People who have HIV infection
- People who inject illegal drugs
- Babies and young children
- Elderly people
- People who were not treated correctly for TB in the past
- People with certain medical conditions that make the body weaker such as diabetes, certain types of cancer and being underweight

If you believe you have been exposed to someone with TB disease, you should go to your doctor or the local health department. You can find your nearest health unit at <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/health-units> or you can call 501-661-2152 for more information.