

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) INFORMATION AND CLINIC

Tuberculosis (TB)

Tuberculosis is a communicable disease. This bacterial disease usually affecting the lungs (pulmonary TB). Other parts of the body can also be affected, for example lymph nodes, kidneys, bones, joints, etc. (extrapulmonary TB). Approximately 1,800 cases are reported each year in New York State.

Tuberculosis can affect anyone of any age. People with weakened immune systems are at increased risk. Tuberculosis is spread through the air when a person with untreated pulmonary TB coughs or sneezes. Prolonged exposure to a person with untreated TB usually is necessary for infection to occur.

What are Some of the Symptoms?

The symptoms of TB include a low-grade fever, night sweats, fatigue, weight loss and a persistent cough. Some people may not have obvious symptoms. Most people infected with the germ that causes TB never develop active TB. If active TB does develop, it can occur two to three months after infection or years later. The risk of active disease lessens as time passes. Tuberculosis is spread through the air when a person with untreated pulmonary TB coughs or sneezes. Prolonged exposure to a person with untreated TB usually is necessary for infection to occur.

What are the TB Chest Clinic Services?

If you are diagnosed with a positive skin test for tuberculosis, you may be referred to our TB Chest Clinic services by your physician or employer. TB Chest Clinic services include:

- A physical exam
- Chest x-ray
- Laboratory tests
- Education and information about the infection and treatment
- Medications if recommended

Treatment may take as little as four or as many as nine months, depending on individual factors and the kind of medication used.

How Much does it Cost and Where is the Clinic?

Most major insurances cover these services. If you do not have insurance, the Health Department can make arrangements for payment.

Clinics are offered monthly on a Thursday afternoon at Temple Beth Israel, 1 Bowman Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901. Appointments are necessary.

Contact Us

To receive more information, or schedule an appointment for our TB Chest Clinic, call or visit us at:

Clinton County Health Department
Health Services Unit
133 Margaret Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
Tel: (518) 565-4848