
March 24 | 2019

World Tuberculosis Day

It's TIME! for a world without TB



What is TB?



Tuberculosis (**TB**) is a disease caused by the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacteria.

- **TB is curable and treatable** if proper medical treatment is received.
- **TB is spread through the air** from one person to another.
 - When a **person with active TB** coughs or sneezes, TB germs are released into the air.
 - If **another person inhales these germs**, bacteria may enter the lungs, causing infection.

Symptoms of TB



The general symptoms of TB include feeling sick or weak, weight loss, fever and night sweats.

The symptoms of **TB of the lungs** also include coughing, chest pain and the coughing up of blood.

If you have symptoms of TB or have been exposed to someone with TB, contact your doctor. Tell the doctor or nurse **when** you spent **time** with this person.

The Facts



- TB is **curable** but still leads to **1.6 million deaths per year** worldwide, making TB the leading infectious disease killer in the world.
- **TB occurs all over the world.** Three countries account for almost half of the world's cases: India, China and Russia.
- Overall, **TB deaths have decreased.** Between 2000 and 2017, **54 million lives were saved** and TB deaths decreased by 33%.

Multidrug-Resistant TB



Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is a form of TB that **does not respond to first-line drugs** and can be passed from person to person through the air.

It is **treatable and curable** with second-line drugs.

Drug resistance occurs when medicines are used inappropriately—incorrect prescription by doctor, stopped prematurely by patient or poor-quality drugs.

Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) is a rare type of MDR-TB resistant to almost all drugs used to treat TB.

TB + HIV/AIDS



HIV and TB form a lethal combination, each speeding the other's progress.

- People living with HIV are 20 to 30 times more likely to develop active TB.
- In 2017, there were 900,000 new cases of TB among people who are HIV-positive.

Resources



World Health Organization

World TB Day

<https://www.who.int/tb/en/>

End TB Strategy

<http://www.who.int/tb/strategy/en/>

Global Report

https://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/

Stop TB Partnership:

Resource center for TB fact sheets, videos and images: <http://www.stoptb.org/>