



BASIC FACTS ABOUT Tuberculosis and COVID-19

	Tuberculosis	COVID-19
Organism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bacteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virus
Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mycobacterium tuberculosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)
Transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From person to person through droplet nuclei when coughing or sneezing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From person to person through droplet particles and through contaminated surfaces.
Diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sputum tests for those with cough. Other samples depending on symptoms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nasal or oropharyngeal swabs and/or sputum tests.
Infectiousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranges from less than 1 to up to 4 people infected for every 1 person with TB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently an average of 2.2 people are infected for every 1 person with COVID-19.
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cough or sneeze into your elbow, sleeve or handkerchief. TB preventive therapy for close contacts of people with TB and other risk populations, such as people living with HIV. Early diagnosis and appropriate TB treatment. Keep living spaces well ventilated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice physical distancing of 2 meters (6 feet). Cough or sneeze into your elbow, sleeve or handkerchief. Wash your hands frequently with soap under running water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based sanitizer if you cannot access soap and water. Wear a face mask, particularly if experiencing symptoms or taking care of someone with symptoms. Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care professionals. Keeping living spaces well ventilated.
Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systemic or generalised symptoms include low grade fever, weight loss and night sweats. Lung specific symptoms may include a cough which is usually productive of sputum (wet), shortness of breath, chest pain and coughing up blood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High grade fever, cough (usually dry), sore throat and shortness of breath. Loss of smell and taste. During the second week of illness (sometimes): difficulty breathing (severe acute respiratory distress). Clinical presentation classified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asymptomatic/mild disease (80%) Moderate disease (15%) Severe disease (5%)
Onset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptoms appear gradually, often over a period of weeks or longer. Symptoms persist if not treated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptoms typically appear quickly (2-14 days after exposure, with a median of 5 days), if symptoms ever arise. Symptoms disappear after approximately 7 days, except in severe cases which could be more.
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TB is curable when a patient is diagnosed early and adheres to the treatment regimen. Drug-sensitive TB: 4 anti-tuberculosis medicines for 2 months and 2-3 anti-tuberculosis medicines for 4 months (6 month of treatment). Drug-resistant TB: anti-tuberculosis medicines for 9-24 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptomatic and supportive treatments currently. Depending on severity, concentrated oxygen and ventilator may be used. Antibiotics if secondary bacterial infection is suspected. Note: Many drug trials are underway.
Vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCG offers some protection against severe forms of TB, particularly for children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. Vaccine research and development underway.
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