

TB testing is offered at our downtown location by appointment only. Testing fees may be reduced based on family size or income. Medicaid and Medicare may also be accepted.

**Call (509) 324-1600
for information or an appointment.**

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow three days advance notice.

What you need to know about TB

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by bacteria which usually attack the lungs, but can attack any part of the body. TB is spread through the air when a person with active TB in the lungs talks, coughs, or sneezes. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria and become infected. If not treated properly, TB can be fatal.

Latent TB infection vs. active TB disease

People who have latent TB infection do not feel sick, do not have any symptoms, and cannot spread TB to others. Some people with latent TB infection go on to get active TB disease. People with latent TB can take medicine so that they will not develop active TB.

TB bacteria become active if the immune system can't stop them from growing. The bacteria attack the body and destroy tissue. If this occurs in the lungs, the bacteria can create a hole in the lung. Some people develop active TB disease soon after becoming infected; other people may get sick later. People with active TB are most likely to spread it to others who they spend time with every day. Active TB can be treated and cured if people seek medical help.

Symptoms

TB may cause a bad cough that lasts 3 weeks or longer, pain in the chest, and coughing up blood or phlegm. Other symptoms are weakness or fatigue, weight loss, no appetite, chills, fever, and sweating at night.

You should get tested for TB if:

- ◆ You have spent time with a person known or suspected to have active TB disease
- ◆ You have HIV infection
- ◆ You are from a country where TB is common (most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Russia)
- ◆ You live or work where TB disease is more common, such as a homeless shelter, migrant farm camp, prison or jail, and some health care facilities
- ◆ You have a history of drug or alcohol abuse

Getting tested for TB

A one-visit, accurate blood test (QuantiFERON®-TB Gold) is used to find out if you are infected with TB bacteria.

What if I have a positive test for TB?

If your test is positive for TB, your doctor or nurse may do other tests to see whether you have active or latent TB. Tests may include a chest x-ray, a coughing specimen, or other tests.

TB can almost always be cured with medicine, but it must be taken as directed. If you have active TB, it will take at least 6 months for the medicine to kill all the TB bacteria.

A nurse will administer your medication to you. You may feel better after only a few weeks of treatment, but the TB bacteria are still alive in your body. You must continue to take your medicine until all the TB bacteria are dead.

