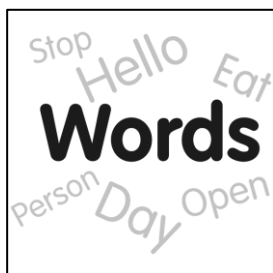


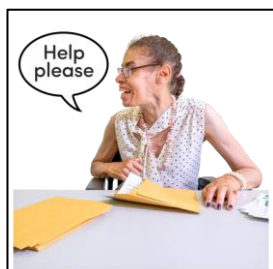
# Protect Your Baby Against Tuberculosis (TB) With the BCG Vaccine



A Patient Information easy-read leaflet



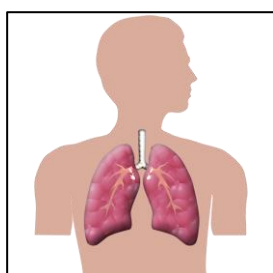
In this booklet difficult words are in **bold** text. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they are used.



You might need to ask someone to help you read this booklet.

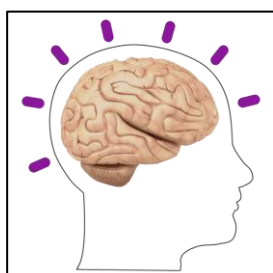


During your appointments health professionals might wear a face mask, apron and gloves.



Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease that affects your lungs.

It can affect other parts of the body too.



It can cause **meningitis**. **Meningitis** is a swelling of the brain in babies.

# Symptoms of TB

**Symptoms** is the word we use to describe how an illness makes people feel.



- A cough you have had for more than 3 weeks.



- Coughing up blood.
- Not feeling hungry and losing weight.



- A fever.
- Being very tired.



- Parts of your body becoming swollen and does not go away after a 3 or 4 weeks.

These symptoms can also be signs of another illness.

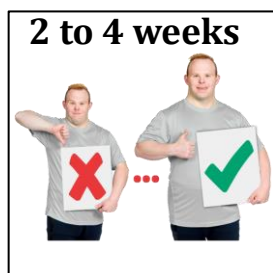


If a health professional thinks you have TB, you will need to see a specialist.

# Can TB be cured



Yes. TB can be cured with antibiotics.



You will need to take antibiotics for 6 months.

You will usually begin to feel better after taking antibiotics for 2 to 4 weeks.



You must take all the antibiotics as you have been told to take to cure your TB.

TB can become harder to treat if you stop taking the antibiotics.



You may pass it on to your family and friends.



If TB is not treated it can kill.

# How is TB spread and could I get it?

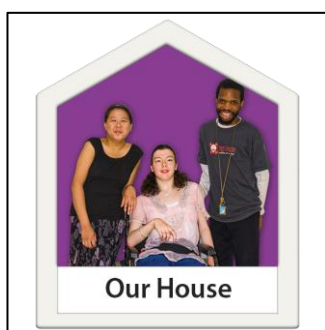


TB is spread when people with TB cough or sneeze.

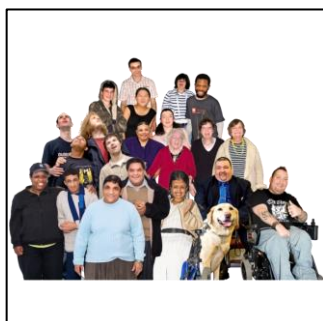


A person with TB needs to be near you for a long time for you to catch it.

Anyone can catch TB, but you are more at risk if you:



- Live with someone who has TB or has been in close contact with them.



- Live in unhealthy or overcrowded places.



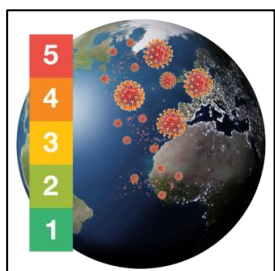
- Do not eat enough to stay healthy.



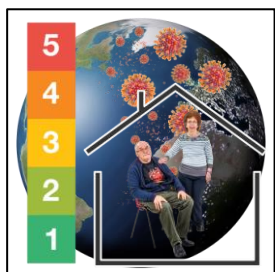
- Are homeless or sleeping rough.



- Need to take drugs or alcohol.



- Spent a long time in countries with high rates of TB.



- Have parents or grandparents who come from a country which has a high rate of TB.



- Were in contact with someone who had TB when you were young.

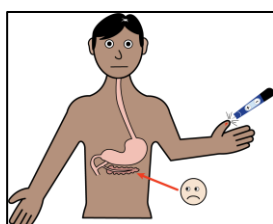




- Have been in prison.



- Are unable to fight infection due to illness or treatment.



- Have a condition that affects your **immune system**, like diabetes.

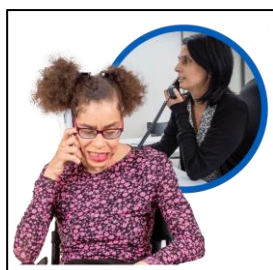
The **immune system** is the way your body protects itself from diseases.



- Are very young.



- Are very old.



Talk to your nurse or GP if you would like more information.

# The BCG Vaccine

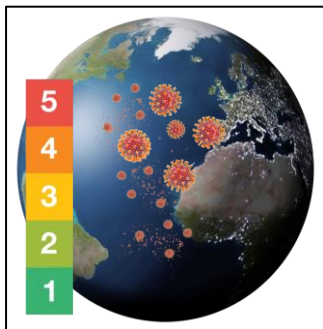


The BCG **vaccine** protects your baby from getting TB.

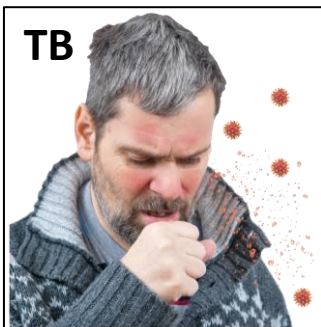
A **vaccine** is a medicine that helps keep people safe and well.

You might hear people talk about a vaccine as a jab or an injection.

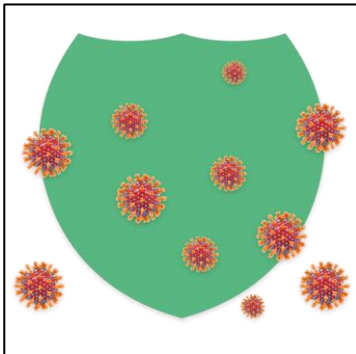
The BCG vaccine is given to babies who are more likely to come into contact with someone with TB because:



- you or family are from a country with a high rate of TB
- you and your baby will be going to live or travel to these countries
- you or anyone else who has contact with your baby has TB or has had TB.







The vaccine has a small part of the TB germ in it to help your baby's body develop an **immunity** to the disease.

**Immunity** means your baby's body can protect itself from diseases.



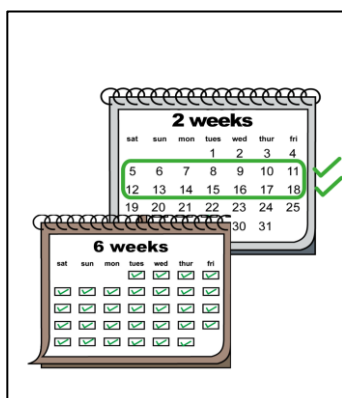
The health professional will put the vaccine in your baby's left arm.

# Side effects

**Side effects** are how your baby might feel after getting the vaccine.



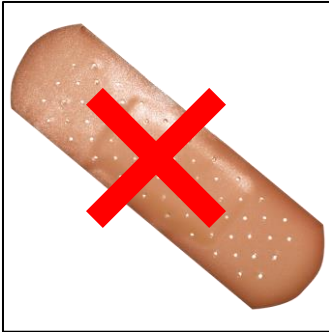
After the vaccine a blister will appear.



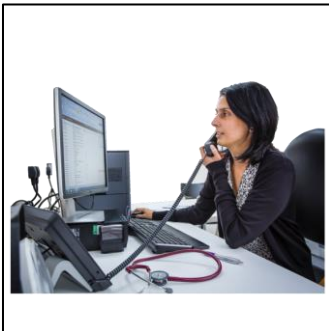
Between 2 to 6 weeks your baby may get a sore bit on their arm where the vaccine was given.



Do not cover sore bit, even in the bath.



Do not use waterproof plasters or creams. It may take several months to heal.



Your health professional will answer any questions you have.

See your GP if you are worried your baby's arm is infected.

# Reasons your baby should not have the vaccine



If your baby has a high fever the BCG vaccine will be given when the fever has gone.



The BCG vaccine might not be given to babies where their mother has a weakened immune system.

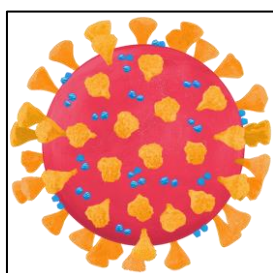


Your health professional will tell you if your baby cannot get the vaccine.

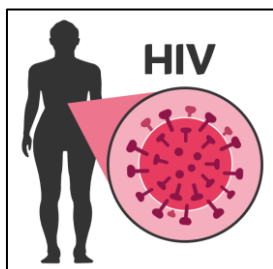
The BCG vaccine should not be given if your baby:



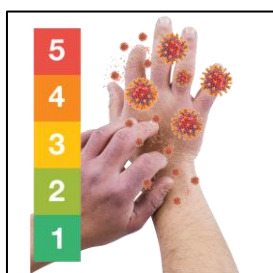
- is under 2 years old and lives in a house where someone else has TB.



- has had a weak immune system



- is HIV positive

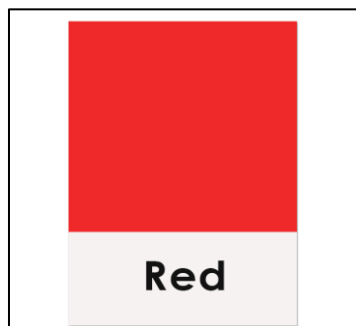


- is suffering from certain serious skin conditions



- will have an **allergic reaction**

An **allergic reaction** is when your body gets ill because of certain things, like a type of food or a medicine.



Remember to take your babys Red Book to the appointment so that the vaccination is in the childs personal Child Health Record.



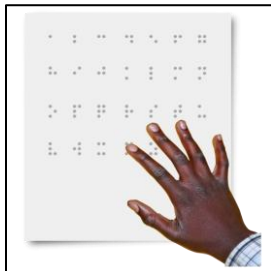
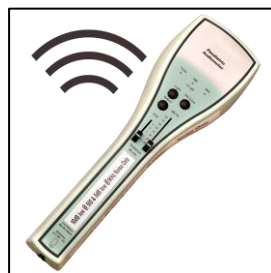
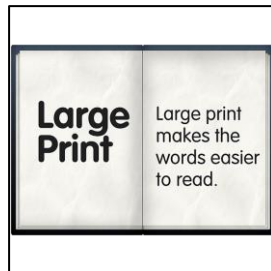
You should make sure that your baby is not given another injection in the same arm as the BCG for at least 3 months afterwards .



If you want more information on TB or the BCG vaccine or any other immunisations talk to your GP or nurse or visit our website at

[www.nhs.uk/vaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations).





If you want this booklet in:

- another language
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- Braille
- Large print



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Or visit the website: <https://www.locala.org.uk>