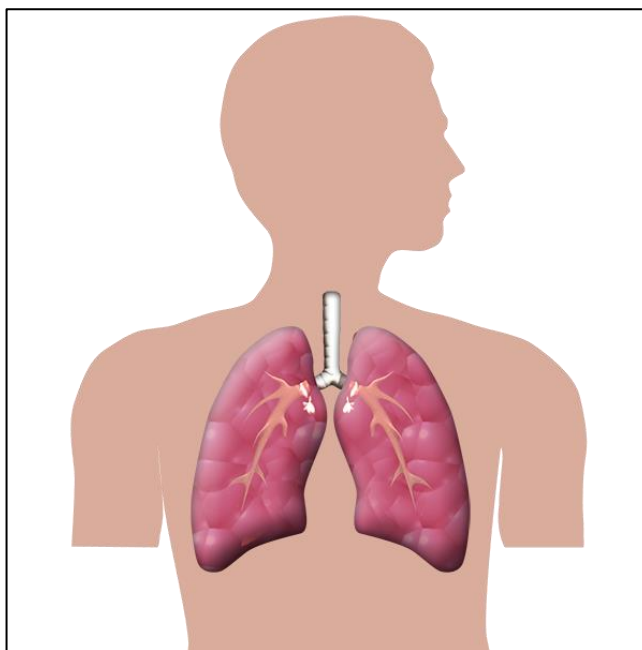


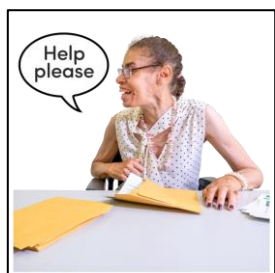
Tuberculosis (TB)



A Patient Information easy-read leaflet



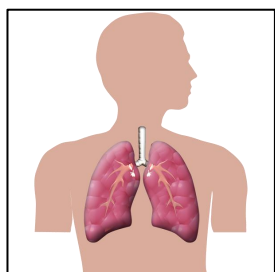
In this booklet difficult words are in **bold** text. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they are used.



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.

Symptoms of TB

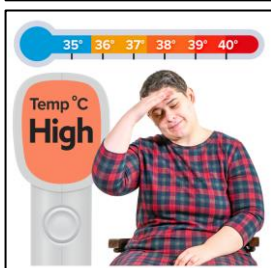
Symptoms is the word we use to describe how an illness makes people feel.



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



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

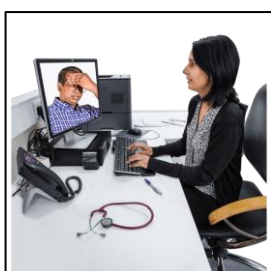


- A fever.
- Being very tired.



- 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.

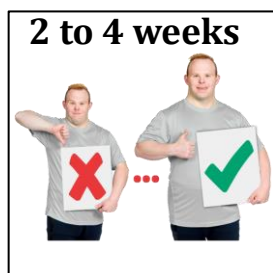


If a health professional thinks you have TB, you will need to see a specialist.

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?

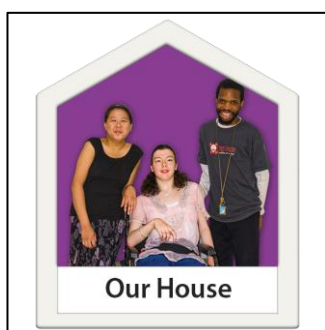


TB is spread when people with TB cough or sneeze.

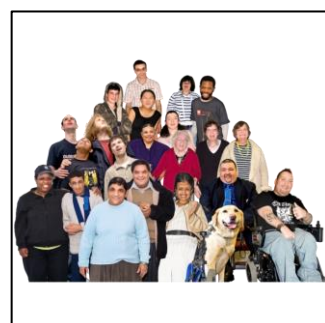


A person with TB needs to be near you for a long time for you to catch it.

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.



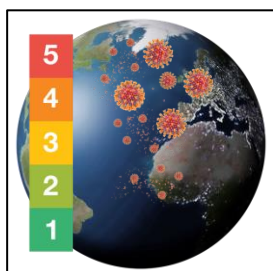
- Do not eat enough to stay healthy.



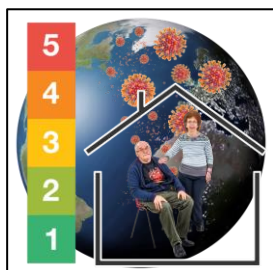
- Are homeless or sleeping rough.



- 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.



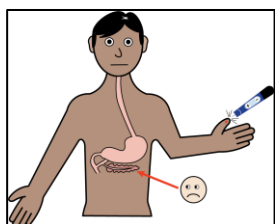
- Were in contact with someone who had TB when you were young.



- Have been in prison.



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



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

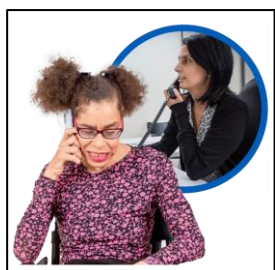
The **immune system** is the way your body protects itself from diseases.



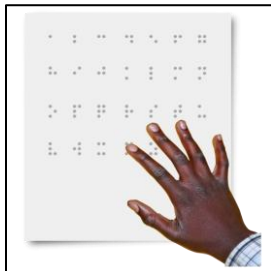
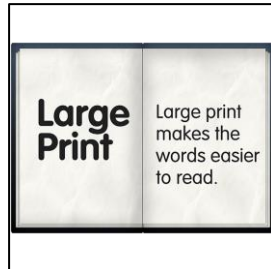
- Are very young.



- Are very old.



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



If you want this booklet in:

- another language
- audio
- BSL
- Braille
- Large print



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