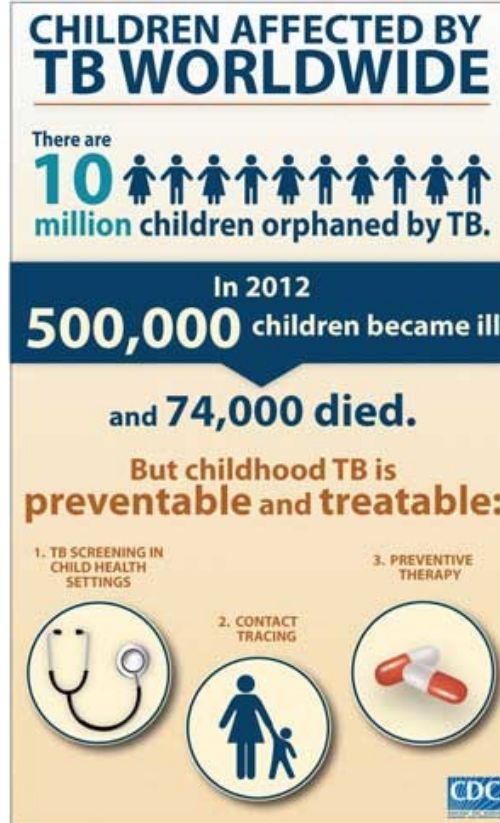


## Medications?

Isoniazid is the most commonly used treatment for latent TB infections. In children the recommended length is 9 months. Other medications include rifampin, and rifapentine.

Active TB is treated by taking several anti-TB medicines for 6–9 months. If drugs are stopped before completion, the infected person may become sick again. If the drugs are not taken correctly, the bacterium can develop resistance. Resistant TB is harder and more expensive to treat, and can take up to 18-24 months to complete the course. Some medications include isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide.

Possible side effects include fever, unexplained anorexia, dark urine (color of coffee or cola), icterus, rash, persistent paresthesia of hands and feet, persistent fatigue or weakness lasting 3 or more days, abdominal tenderness (especially in right upper quadrant), easy bruising or bleeding, arthralgia, nausea, and vomiting. Some of the drugs can interact with other drugs (including hormonal contraceptives)



[www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/tb/dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1005](http://www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/tb/dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1005)

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## Pediatric Tuberculosis (TB)



WETMORE TB CLINIC

*Gayatri Miraani, MD*



## What is TB?

TB is caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, a bacteria that is spread from person to person through the air. The bacterium is introduced into the air when an infected individual coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings; which can then be breathed in by nearby people. Children infected with TB are less likely to transmit the bacterium to others, due to the form of TB disease commonly seen in children. Infants and young children are more likely to develop life-threatening forms of TB disease (disseminated TB, TB meningitis). TB infections can take on two forms; latent TB infection and TB disease. Pediatric TB is a public health problem because it is a marker for recent transmission of TB.

- ◆ In 2013, total of 9582 cases of TB reported in the United States.
- ◆ 485 (5%) of the cases were in children (less than 15 years of age).

## How do we screen for it?

When there are no symptoms of TB, usually the only sign is a positive reaction to a TB skin test or TB blood test.

The TB skin test (also known as Mantoux test, PPD test, tuberculin skin test) is considered to be safe in children, and is preferred over TB blood tests for children less than 5 years of age. This is when a small needle is used to place some testing material (tuberculin) under the skin. A health care worker will check to see if there is a reaction to the test when you return 2-3 days later.

The TB blood test measures how a person's immune system reacts to the germs that cause TB.

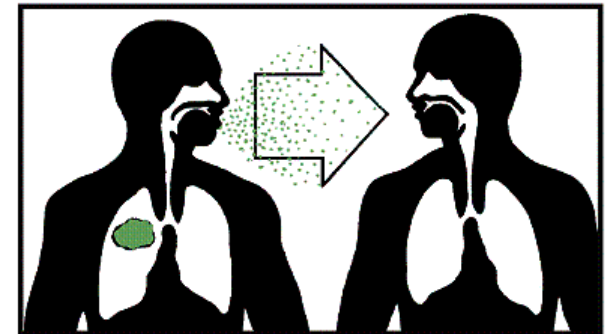
Any children with either a positive test for TB, symptoms of TB, or a history of contact with a person with infectious TB disease should get a medical evaluation. These evaluations include a chest x-ray and physical examination to exclude TB disease (must be done before starting treatment for latent TB infection).

## What is latent TB?

Latent TB is when the TB bacteria live in the body, but doesn't make you sick. Most people who get infected are able to fight the bacteria to prevent it from growing. Persons with latent TB do not feel sick and do not have any symptoms. These people will have a positive TB test. However, they are not infectious and cannot spread TB to other people. They can progress into active TB disease, but they are often given medicine to prevent them from developing TB disease.

## What is active TB?

Active TB or TB disease is when the bacterium become active in the body and multiply. The person will get sick and have symptoms of TB. When children get infected, they are more likely to get sick with TB disease and to get sick more quickly than adults. People with TB disease can spread the bacteria to other people. Note that not everyone with latent TB will develop TB disease, some people get active TB soon after getting infected (within weeks), while in others it could take years. People with active TB will test positive for TB infection. They must be given medicine to treat TB disease.



*TB can be spread through talking, singing, coughing, or sneezing.*