

TUBERCULOSIS

(Report Immediately)



Infectious Agent

- Myobacterium tuberculosis (or M. bovis, M. africanum, M. microti—all are rare)

Clinical Features

- Pulmonary: productive cough >2 wks in duration, along with one or more of the following: dyspnea, chest pain, fever, night sweats, anorexia, weight loss, fatigue.
- Extrapulmonary: lymphatic, pleural, bone/joint, genitourinary, CNS, and disseminated. Local symptoms and findings, with or without systemic signs.

Incubation and Transmission

- From exposure to establishment of infection: 2-12 weeks.
- From infection to disease: weeks to years (overall, 5-10% of those who acquire TB infection will develop active disease during their lifetime).
- Airborne droplet nuclei transmission.

Reservoirs

- Humans (other mammalian species are susceptible to TB, but do not play a role in current epidemiology).

Diagnosis

- Active disease: Chest radiograph Sputum smear and culture Tuberculin skin test.
- Latent Infection: Tuberculin skin test, chest radiograph.

Control and Treatment of Patient and Contacts

- Active disease: Consult YHD TB Control Program for case management and contact investigation.
- Latent Infection: Isoniazid (5mg/kg up to 300 mg/d maximum) for 9 months.
- Always exclude active disease prior to starting treatment for latent TB.
- Consult YHD TB Control Program for more information.

Links

- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/default.htm>
- <http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/nc/tuberculosis.htm>