TB is spread when a person with TB disease coughs, sings, or speaks and you breathe the air contaminated with TB germs. The germs reach your lungs. From there, they can go to other parts of your body.

Your body fights the TB germs. Taking your TB medicine is very important. You need to take the medicine to help get better and to prevent the spread of TB germs to others.

You get TB DISEASE when the TB germs multiply and attack your lungs or other parts of your body. When this happens,

- You have a positive TB skin test or TB blood test.
- You feel sick with cough, fever, weight loss, chest pain, or sweating at night.
- You have active TB germs in your body.
- You may give TB germs to others.
- You may have an abnormal chest x-ray.

If your body controls the germs, you have LATENT TB INFECTION. When this happens,

- You may have a positive TB skin test or TB blood test.
- You don’t feel sick.
- You don’t have TB symptoms.
- You can’t give TB germs to others.
- You have a normal chest x-ray.

You can take medicine to treat LATENT TB INFECTION and prevent getting TB DISEASE.