Tuberculosis (TB) spreads through the air from one person to another.

- TB germs spread when a person with infectious TB disease coughs, speaks, or sings.
- TB germs usually attack the lungs but can also move to any part of the body.

TB germs can live in the body without making you sick.

This is called latent TB infection or inactive TB.

- TB germs can live in your body for years without causing symptoms. Without treatment, inactive TB can develop into active TB disease and make you sick.
- If you have inactive TB, you can take TB medicine to prevent the development of active TB disease even if you do not feel sick.

If your body cannot stop TB germs from growing, you develop active TB disease.

- You may feel sick and spread TB germs to your family, friends, and others around you.
- You need to take and finish all your TB medicine to help you feel better and prevent other people from getting sick.

Symptoms of active TB disease:

- Cough lasting 3+ weeks
- Coughing up blood or sputum (phlegm from deep inside the lungs)
- Chest pain
- Weakness or fatigue
- No appetite
- Weight loss
- Fever and/or chills
- Night sweats

Take and finish all of your TB medicine to kill TB germs and STOP TB!