

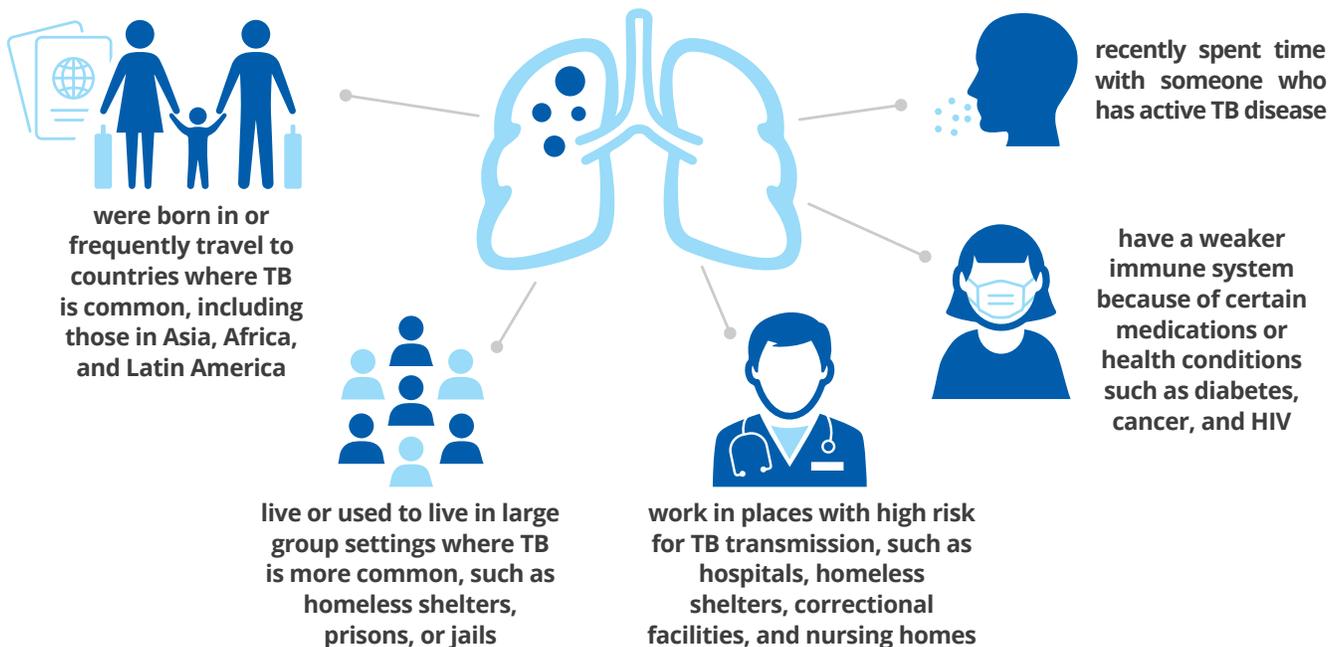
# Why should I be tested for Inactive Tuberculosis (TB)?

Tuberculosis, or TB disease, is highly contagious and can be deadly. TB germs can live in your body for years without causing symptoms. This is called inactive TB or latent TB infection. Without treatment, inactive TB can become active TB disease at any time and make you sick. Once TB becomes active, it can spread from person to person through the air. **Getting tested and treated for inactive TB can protect yourself, your family and friends, and your community.**

## 1 Think Are you at risk for TB infection?

Millions of people in the United States have inactive TB but don't know it.

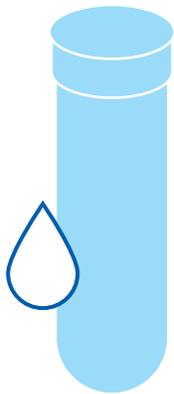
Anyone can get TB, but you have a higher risk for TB if you:



You may be at risk for TB even if you have received the TB vaccine (also called the BCG vaccine) because its protection weakens over time.

## 2 Test **How are you tested for TB infection?**

There are two types of tests for TB infection. Talk with your healthcare provider about which test is best for you.



**TB Blood Test**

Your healthcare provider may recommend the TB blood test because it can be done in one visit, and it's more accurate if you've been vaccinated for TB in the past. The blood test measures how your immune system reacts to the germs that cause TB.



**TB Skin Test**

For the skin test, a small needle is used to put some testing material under the skin. You will need to return to your healthcare provider in 2-3 days to see if there is a reaction.

## 3 Treat

### What are the treatment options?

If you have inactive TB, short and convenient treatments are available that can help protect you from getting sick with active TB disease.

Treating inactive TB infection is the best way to protect you from developing active TB disease. Talk to your healthcare provider about your medications and community resources that are available to support you in your treatment plan.



**Public and private healthcare plans may cover the costs of testing and treatment for TB infection.**



To learn more about TB and how you can protect yourself and others, visit [www.cdc.gov/thinktesttreattb](http://www.cdc.gov/thinktesttreattb)