



Tuberculosis in California - 2018

What is Tuberculosis (TB)?

- TB is the world's deadliest infectious disease. TB is still a threat in the U.S. and a global epidemic
- When a person with TB disease coughs, people who share that air can become infected with TB
- Those infected with TB are most likely to develop TB disease within the first two years or when conditions challenge their immune system, like diabetes, smoking, HIV, or simply aging

How many Californians are affected?

- More than 2,000 people are diagnosed with TB disease in California each year
- 20% of the TB disease diagnosed in the U.S. is diagnosed in California
- Approximately 1-2% of the TB disease found in California is multidrug resistant TB
- 90% of those diagnosed and treated in California are cured of their TB
- 2.4 million Californians are living with TB infection. They are not sick or contagious. Many people know that they have tested positive for TB, but they do not know they may develop TB disease.

How do we prevent TB in California?

- Each year public health staff evaluate 20,000 personal contacts to people diagnosed with contagious TB, to find others who got infected and treat their infection to prevent future disease
- Public health staff make sure appropriate treatment is followed to cure TB, to prevent the development of drug resistant TB, and to prevent new cases of TB

United to End TB

Californians: Know the symptoms of TB disease: persistent cough, unexplained weight loss, and night sweats. Ask your health care provider about risks for TB and if you need a test for TB. If your doctor or public health department recommends treatment for TB infection, get treated to prevent TB disease.

Health Care Providers: 80% of those diagnosed with TB disease in California have reactivated TB infection. The US Preventive Services Task Force recommends TB disease prevention. Protect your patients from active TB disease by screening them for risks and treating TB infection.

Local Boards of Supervisors: Maintain your [public health TB work force](#). Public health TB programs [provide essential services](#) to prevent TB and cure TB when illness occurs from TB disease.

California Legislators: Support risk-based testing and treatment of TB infection. These two steps will move California toward TB elimination, making a TB free California.

Federal Representatives: Join your colleagues in [the House TB Elimination Caucus](#).