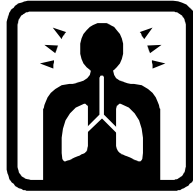


TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

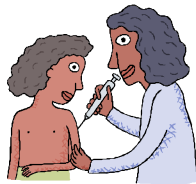
WHAT IS TUBERCULOSIS?



TB is a disease caused by a bacteria. This bacteria can attack any part of your body but usually attacks the lungs. TB disease was once the leading cause of death in the United States. TB began to decline in the 1940's due to drug therapies, but between 1985 and 1992 the number of cases began to increase as our country became more complacent about TB, and funding of TB programs was decreased. In 2000, there were more than 16,000 cases of TB reported in the United States.

ACTIVE TB disease is spread through the air from one person to another when the infected person coughs or sneezes. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria and become infected.

People who are infected with LATENT TB do not have any symptoms, and cannot spread TB to others. These people have breathed in the bacteria and have become infected, but the body has been able to fight the bacteria and prevent it from growing. The latent bacteria is inactive, but remains alive in the body. The bacteria can become active later, developing into the disease state.



BCG is a vaccine for TB. Many international students report having been given a BCG as a child. BCG is NOT required and is NOT recommended for incoming students. This vaccine is not widely used in the U.S. but is often given to infants and small children in other countries where TB is common. **BCG vaccine does not always protect people from TB disease.**

If you were vaccinated with BCG, you may or may not have a positive reaction to a TB skin test. If you do have a positive TB skin test, this could be due to the BCG vaccine OR to latent TB infection. Your positive test result is most likely due to exposure to TB. We have many students who have received a BCG and have a negative skin test. Regardless of the cause for your positive skin test, you will be required to have a chest x ray. Oklahoma City County Health Department requires a chest x ray for ANYONE who has a positive skin test.

Information taken from the Department of Health and Human Services, CDC website "Questions and Answers About TB". For more information about TB please visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov