

Signs & Symptoms of TB Disease in adults are:

- Cough of 2 weeks or more
- Fever
- Fatigue or Tiredness
- Weight Loss
- Night Sweats
- Blood in Sputum (lung mucus)

When children get sick with TB disease, they do not have these common symptoms.

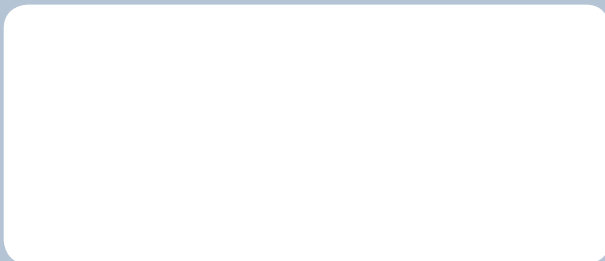
Our Vision

Healthy, Self-Determining
and Vibrant BC First Nations
Children, Families and
Communities.



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

For further information about TB
please contact your
Community Health Centre:



First Nations Health Authority
Tuberculosis Services

Toll-Free: 1.844.364.2232

Fax: 604.689.3302

Email: fnhatb@fnha.ca

Website: www.fnha.ca/tuberculosis

The illustrations used in this FNHA Tuberculosis program information series were selected as part of a contest asking First Nations artists to visually show what Tuberculosis looked like or meant to them. We thank each artist for sharing their vision with the FNHA Health Protection team for use in these publications.



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



Preventing Tuberculosis in First Nations Children

Why should your baby or child have a TB Skin Test?

To find out if your baby or child has TB infection.

Babies & children under 5 years old who have a positive TB skin test or TB infection are more likely to develop TB disease.

When babies or children get sick with TB disease, they do not have the common symptoms. This makes it very difficult to detect TB disease in children.

TB disease in babies and children is much more likely to spread through the body and cause TB Meningitis. This is a very serious form of TB and can cause death if not treated.

When should babies & children have a TB Skin Test?

It is recommended that children born after June 1, 2003 have a TB Skin test when they are 10 months old, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years, grade 1 and grade 6.

What is a TB Skin Test

A TB skin test will show if your baby or child has breathed in the TB bacteria (TB infection).

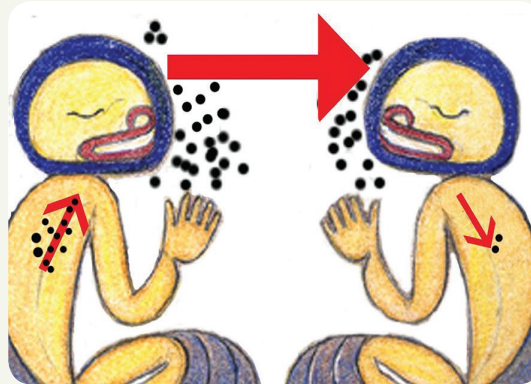
An injection of a small amount of protein fluid is given just underneath the skin. This will make a small bubble that will disappear in 5 – 10 minutes.

Important! You **must** bring your baby or child back in 2 – 3 days for the Nurse to look at the baby or child's arm to find out if your there is TB infection. The test can only be read by a trained health care worker.

What if my baby or child has a positive TB Skin Test

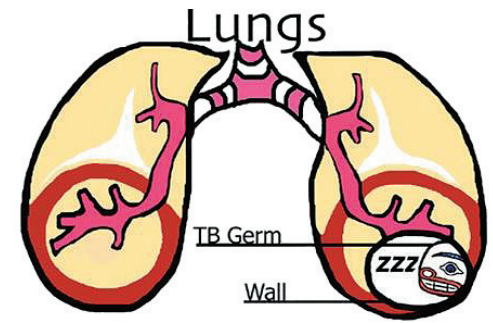
If your baby has a positive TB skin test (a bump on the arm):

1. The nurse will send your baby or child for a chest x-ray.
2. A TB doctor will check the x-ray for signs of TB disease.
3. A TB doctor will make a recommendation if your baby needs to be treated with medication. (TB medication is very safe for your baby).



How do babies and young children catch TB?

1. A person with TB **disease** coughs the TB bacteria into the air.
2. If your baby or child is in the same room as a person with TB **disease**, they may breathe the TB bacteria into his/her lungs.
3. Your baby or child's body can fight back by building a wall around the TB bacteria. If this happens, they will be infected but not sick.
4. After infection, the TB bacteria can become active and cause TB disease. That is why it is important to test for TB infection.



What are the risks of developing TB Disease if a person has TB Infection?

- Adults with TB **infection** have a 10% chance of developing active TB **disease**.
- TB **infection** in babies can be safely treated.
- Children with TB **infection** are four times more likely than adults to develop TB **disease**.
- TB **disease** in babies and children of all ages can be cured.
- Talk to a Community Health Nurse about having your baby tested for TB.

