

Tuberculosis (TB) Infection or Disease?

TB Infection	OR	TB Disease
TB germ has entered the body but is not growing (dormant/inactive)	Status	TB germ has entered the body and is growing (replicating/active)
Positive Skin Test	Skin Test	May be positive or negative
No active TB disease	Chest x-ray (or e.g., CT scan, MRI)	Most show active TB on x-ray of chest OR on x-ray/ CT scan/ MRI of other parts of the body (e.g., lymph node, spine, kidney)
No TB germs in sputum	Sputum	May have TB germs in sputum
No symptoms	Symptoms	Symptoms which become worse over time (e.g., cough, chest pain, chills, weakness, weight loss, night sweats, coughing up blood, swollen lymph node)
Not contagious Cannot pass TB germ to anyone else	Infectiousness	Contagious If disease is in the lungs and not properly treated with medication
Person is at risk of developing disease in the future	Associated Risks	Person has disease and must be treated to prevent disease from getting worse or spreading to others
May be prescribed medication to prevent disease from developing	Treatment	Needs treatment with several medications for 6 months or longer to cure the disease

see Canadian Tuberculosis Standards for more detail