

TUBERCULOSIS

Literacy Project



MOSAIC

MOSAIC, with the support of Public Health Agency of Canada, is working to raise awareness and reduce stigma regarding Tuberculosis (TB) among at-risk communities. We are collaborating with healthcare providers, service organizations and community leaders to provide education and resources - as well as increasing equitable access to TB services and treatment.



**Public Health
Agency of Canada**

**Agence de la santé
publique du Canada**

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS (TB):

- TB is a serious but **treatable and curable** infectious disease caused by bacteria and spread through the air.
- When TB bacteria enters a person's lungs, the body will usually stop bacteria from growing, and the person will not feel sick - this called **inactive TB**. There is a small chance that the bacteria will grow, and the person will feel sick – this is called **active TB**.
- People with **active TB** have symptoms including prolonged cough and fever, and may spread TB bacteria to others. They will require medical attention.
- People with **inactive TB** have no symptoms, do not feel sick, and cannot spread TB bacteria to others.
- There are many people in the world living with **inactive TB** without noticing.
- There is a small chance that **inactive TB** will develop to **active TB** over time. It is important to prevent **active TB** by testing for and treating **inactive TB** - the TB skin test can help to determine whether or not someone has **inactive TB**.
- Treatment for **inactive TB** depends on the medicine regime and varies between 3 to 9 months.
- In British Columbia, TB testing and treatment are free for people at risk.

- There is no shame in testing positive for **inactive TB**, and people should not be afraid of this diagnosis.
- Anyone may test positive for **TB** regardless of ethnicity, race, cultural, religion, education level, occupation, immigration status, socio-economic status, and sexual orientation.
- Having **inactive TB** does not affect any aspect of normal and routine daily activities. A person with **inactive TB** can continue to maintain relationships, go to work, attend school, and remain active in society without feeling sick, and without fear of transmitting infection to others.
- A person with **inactive TB** does not require quarantine or isolation from families, friends, and communities.
- Being diagnosed with **inactive TB** does not impact immigration status, nor restrict domestic and international travels.
- In Canada, health information is kept strictly **confidential and protected** by Federal and Provincial Privacy Laws and Acts.
- In Canada, **inactive TB** testing and treatment is completely voluntary and is only done to prevent **active TB** disease. To prevent **TB**, consult your health care provider/s or TB clinics.

TB SCREENING CLINICS IN METRO VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER

655 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver

Phone: 604-707-2692

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday:

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thursday: 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

NEW WESTMINSTER

100 - 237 E. Columbia Street
New Westminster

Phone: 604-707-2698

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday:

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thursday: 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HEALTH INFORMATION

- **Health Link BC** – call 811 toll-free (interpretation services are available in over 130 languages) or visit www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/tuberculosis
- **BC CDC** - www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/tuberculosis

LANGUAGE SUPPORT:

You can access interpretation services via BC Provincial Language Services. When contacting health practitioners or TB clinics, ask for this service, or contact community or settlement organizations for assistance.

COMMUNITY AND SETTLEMENT SERVICES:

MOSAIC and other settlement organizations support diverse communities with a variety of services including health/wellbeing, employment, housing, language, child care and family programs at several locations. If you need services or support, contact MOSAIC for more information.

MOSAIC HEADQUARTERS

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