



WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN *TB & HIV?*

Are people with HIV at high risk for tuberculosis (TB)?

Yes. People infected with HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) are more likely to get certain infections, such as tuberculosis. HIV weakens the immune system until a person can no longer fight off certain infections.

A person with HIV should have a TB skin test as part of their usual medical care because it is the only test that can detect early TB infection in the body. Other tests may be necessary to be sure you do not have later stages of TB.

What can a person with HIV and TB infection do to prevent TB disease?

A person with HIV and TB infection can take medication to reduce their risk of developing TB disease. Anyone with HIV who has been around someone with TB should be evaluated by a health care provider.

What else should I know about TB and HIV?

People are at higher risk of TB infection if they live in or visit countries with high TB rates (Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Russia), have worked or lived with homeless or institutionalized persons, inject street drugs or abuse alcohol, if they have been close to a person who has TB disease, or have medical conditions that weaken the immune system. Also, the TB skin test may be negative in persons with HIV even if they have TB because of their weakened immune system.

If you believe you are at risk for HIV and TB speak with your doctor or the TB Program of the Health and Human Services Agency at (619) 692-8627.

You may qualify for Medi-Cal benefits. People with TB infection or TB disease may also qualify for TB-Cal. To find out about your eligibility and to request an information packet and application, please call 1-858-514-6885. Collect calls are accepted.