

## **Tuberculosis: Common Questions and Answers**

### ***Hasn't tuberculosis (TB) been eliminated in Canada?***

No. Tuberculosis continues to exist in Canada. The York Region Community and Health Services Department has a Tuberculosis program that deals with any TB cases in York Region. Fortunately, TB is not easily spread from person to person, so we do not have a high number of cases.

### ***Does Community and Health Services do a lot of screening for TB?***

With every TB case, we contact and test anyone who might have been exposed to the bacteria, just to make sure that the illness has not spread. Sometimes we screen only a few individuals; other times, we may screen entire schools or workplaces.

### ***Does a positive TB test mean I have TB?***

A positive skin test means that you have been exposed to the TB bacteria at some point in your life, either through exposure to the bacteria or through vaccination. A positive test means you need to see a doctor for additional tests, including a chest x-ray and physical examination.

### ***If my test is positive, can I still work while I have further tests done?***

The nurse who reads your test will discuss this with you. If your test is positive, you will be asked further questions to determine if you are still able to work.

### ***Is it possible that I have infected my family or friends?***

If you do not have active TB disease, you cannot spread it to anyone else.

### ***Can I catch TB from touching contaminated surfaces?***

No. TB bacteria cannot live on surfaces.

### ***I was immunized against TB as a child. Does that mean that I can't get infected?***

BCG vaccine does not provide permanent or absolute protection against TB. BCG vaccine is given to minimize the potential for serious forms of TB disease.

**If you have any questions, please call the Tuberculosis Control Program  
at 1-877-464-9675, extension 76000**

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