

**PLEASE TAKE YOUR
MEDICINE EVERY DAY.**

DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR THE MEDICINE?

TB medicine is provided for **FREE**. You can simply bring your prescription to one of the following pharmacies:

Pure Health Pharmacy

Mackenzie Health Richmond Hill Hospital
10 Trench Street, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 4Z3
905-883-7500, Fax **905-883-7502**

Pure Health Pharmacy

Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital
3200 Major MacKenzie Drive West, Vaughan,
ON L6A 4Z3
365-922-3200, Fax **1-855-748-0796**

Dale's Pharmacy

Markham-Stouffville Hospital
377 Church Street, Markham, ON L6B 1A1
905-471-1234, Fax **905-471-3732**

Care Rx Pharmacy

Southlake Regional Health Centre
596 Davis Drive, Newmarket, ON L3Y 2P9
905-830-5988, Fax **905-830-5994**

You will be given enough medicine to last for up to three months.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I NEED MORE MEDICINE?

At least two weeks before you run out of medications, contact your health care provider or pharmacy to refill your prescription.

If you have any questions,
please call York Region Public Health
Tuberculosis Control Program at:
1-877-464-9675 ext. 76000,
TTY **1-866-512-6228**
york.ca/tb

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TAKING MEDICINE TO PREVENT TUBERCULOSIS



WHAT IS TUBERCULOSIS (TB) INFECTION?

TB infection is caused by a germ (bacteria). This germ is spread through the air when someone with TB disease coughs, sings or talks. If a person breathes the germ into their lungs it may cause infection. People with TB infection are not considered infectious.

10 per cent of people with TB infection may develop TB disease in their lifetime.

CAN THE GERMS MAKE ME SICK?

As people get older or if they develop medical conditions that can weaken the immune system, their bodies may not be able to prevent the germs from making people sick. There are **FREE** medications available that will help prevent you from becoming sick with TB.

HOW DO I FIND OUT IF I HAVE TB INFECTION?

Your health care provider can administer a TB skin test on your arm to find out if you have been infected. After a couple days, your health care provider will read the skin test. If it is positive, it is likely that you have TB infection. The skin test is not able to tell you when you were infected.

A blood test called the Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) can be used to see if a person has the TB bacteria. Two IGRA blood tests are licensed for use in Canada: Quantiferon TB Gold and T-SPOT TB. However, neither is covered under the Ontario health insurance plan (OHIP).

Your health care provider will likely do more tests (e.g., chest X-ray) before starting you on medications to prevent TB disease.

Depending on your health, your health care provider will tell you if you should take TB medications to prevent TB disease.

WHY DO I NEED MEDICINE TO PREVENT TB?

A positive TB skin test or IGRA test means that you may have TB germs in your body. The TB medications kill the germs before they have a chance to spread and make you sick. Medications are available to prevent people with TB infection from developing TB disease.

WHAT MEDICATIONS DO I NEED?

There are several treatment options (e.g., isoniazid, rifampin, rifapentine or combination). Talk to your health care provider to see which LTBI treatment works best for you.

HOW LONG DO I TAKE THE MEDICATIONS?

Treatment for TB infection may take 3 to 12 months. It is important to take these medications as prescribed.

CAN I GET TB DISEASE AFTER I TAKE THE MEDICINE?

People who take their TB medication as recommended by the health care provider have a lower risk of becoming sick with TB disease.

TAKE THE MEDICINE AT THE SAME TIME EVERY DAY.

WILL THE MEDICINE MAKE ME FEEL SICK?

Most people feel well and do not have any major side effects when taking TB medication, but some people may feel unwell.

To get the best results from your TB medication, your health care provider may routinely follow-up with you and order blood tests regularly.

STOP TAKING THE MEDICINE AND CALL YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER RIGHT AWAY IF YOU HAVE:

- stomach cramps/pain
- yellowish skin or eyes
- loss of appetite/nausea or vomiting
- very dark urine
- numbness, tingling, burning or pain in hands and feet
- fatigue/feeling very tired

