**Tuberculosis: What You Need to Know**

**What is Tuberculosis?**

*Tuberculosis (TB)* is a bacterial disease that spreads from person to person through air. Each year, **10 million people** become sick with *TB* worldwide.

**Basic Facts**

- *TB* germs can enter the air when someone with active *TB* in their lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, talks, or sings.
- These germs can linger in the air. Breathing in air with *TB* germs can lead to a latent *TB* infection (which is inactive *TB*).

**Symptoms**

- General symptoms of *TB* include feelings of sickness or weakness, weight loss, chills, fever, and night sweats.
- Although *TB* usually affects the lungs, it can also affect the brain, kidneys, or spine.
- The symptoms of *TB* of the lungs also include coughing that lasts for 3 weeks or longer, chest pain, and coughing up blood.

Source: cdc.gov
What is the difference between Latent TB infection and TB disease?

**Latent TB infection**
- Many people who have latent (inactive) TB infection never develop active TB disease. Latent TB can remain inactive for a lifetime without causing disease.
- But in some people, especially those with a weak immune system, the bacteria can become active, multiply, and cause active TB disease.

**TB Disease**
- TB bacteria can become active if the immune system can’t stop them from multiplying. When TB bacteria are actively multiplying, this is called TB disease. People with TB disease are sick. They may also be able to spread the bacteria to people they spend time with every day.

**Treatment**
- TB can almost always be treated and cured with medications.

Source: cdc.gov