

I had the TB vaccine (BCG) in my home country. Can I still get TB?



People who had the TB vaccine can still get TB.

TB vaccine protection **goes away over time.**

Even if you had the vaccine, a positive blood test means you have LTBI.

Taking **LTBI medicine** will **protect you from active TB.**

Will having LTBI delay my immigration application?



Taking medicine for LTBI will **NOT** slow down your application.



Your immigration doctor will let your health department know that you have LTBI.



The local health department may reach out to you to provide support.

If you need help finding a doctor who can order your medicine for LTBI, call your local health department:

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control  
PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164  
651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414  
[www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)

# What does having latent tuberculosis (LTBI) mean for me?



You can treat LTBI and stop you and your loved ones from getting sick.

 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Adapted with permission from the California Tuberculosis Controllers Association.

## What is LTBI? How did I get it?

LTBI is an infection with TB germs that are latent (or sleeping) in your body.

You got LTBI from **sharing air** with someone who was sick with active TB.

You can still have LTBI even if you had a TB vaccine.

## There are many differences between LTBI and active TB:

A person with **LTBI:**

Does not feel sick

Has a normal chest X-ray

**Cannot spread TB germs to others**

Treatment can prevent active TB

Treatment is shorter **(three to four months)** and easier

A person with **active TB:**

May feel sick

May have an abnormal X-ray

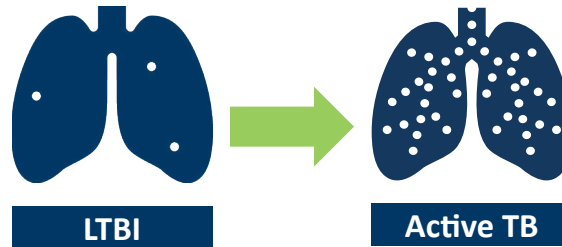
**Can spread TB germs to others**

Treatment can cure active TB

Treatment is longer **(six to 12 months or more)**

## Why should I take medicine for LTBI?

If you don't take medicine for LTBI, it can become active TB.



Active TB is a **serious illness** that can make you very sick.



**Half** of people with active TB are hospitalized.

**5%**

of people with active TB **die** from the illness.

## How can I get medicine for LTBI?

**Ask the immigration doctor if they can** order the medicine for you.

If they can't, **go to your regular doctor and ask them to order the medicine** for you. Bring your blood test paperwork with you.

You can also contact your local health department to refer you to a clinic for treatment.

**If you don't take the medicine, you have a one in ten chance** that your LTBI will become active TB.

**Protect yourself from getting active TB and spreading it to your loved ones.**