

# TUBERCULOSIS

## in First Nations in Canada



Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by bacteria. **It is preventable and curable.** This infection mainly affects the lungs, but can occur in multiple organs. Active TB disease is a serious infection that can be spread to others by coughing or sneezing.

### Reported rate of active TB in First Nations



the reported rate of active TB is over **40X HIGHER** among First Nations living on reserve than non-Indigenous Canadian-born people (*Public Health Agency of Canada, 2017*)

### Factors that increase the chance of developing active TB



#### latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI)

- someone with LTBI does not have symptoms and is not contagious
- treating LTBI prevents the development of active TB



#### close contact with people living with untreated active TB



#### overcrowded, poorly ventilated homes

- 37% of First Nations living on reserve reported living in crowded households, compared to 8% of the non-Indigenous population of Canada (*Statistics Canada, 2016*)



#### poor nutrition



#### having other illnesses, such as diabetes or HIV



#### smoking

### Related links

[Canada.ca/tuberculosis](https://Canada.ca/tuberculosis)  
[health.afn.ca/en/about-us/pro/communicable-disease/tuberculosis](https://health.afn.ca/en/about-us/pro/communicable-disease/tuberculosis)

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### Symptoms of active TB

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, please see your healthcare provider as soon as possible.



cough lasting more than 2 weeks



chest pain



unexpected/unexplained weight loss



weakness/lack of energy



night sweats



chills and/or fever

Together, we can limit the spread of TB in First Nations through education and action on the determinants that influence the spread of TB.

– Assembly of First Nations

