

# Tuberculosis (TB)

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by bacteria. It is most common to get TB in the lungs, but you can also get it in other parts of the body (for example, in the skeleton, lymph nodes or the brain).

- **TB is a treatable and curable disease**
- **TB examination and TB medicines are free in Norway**

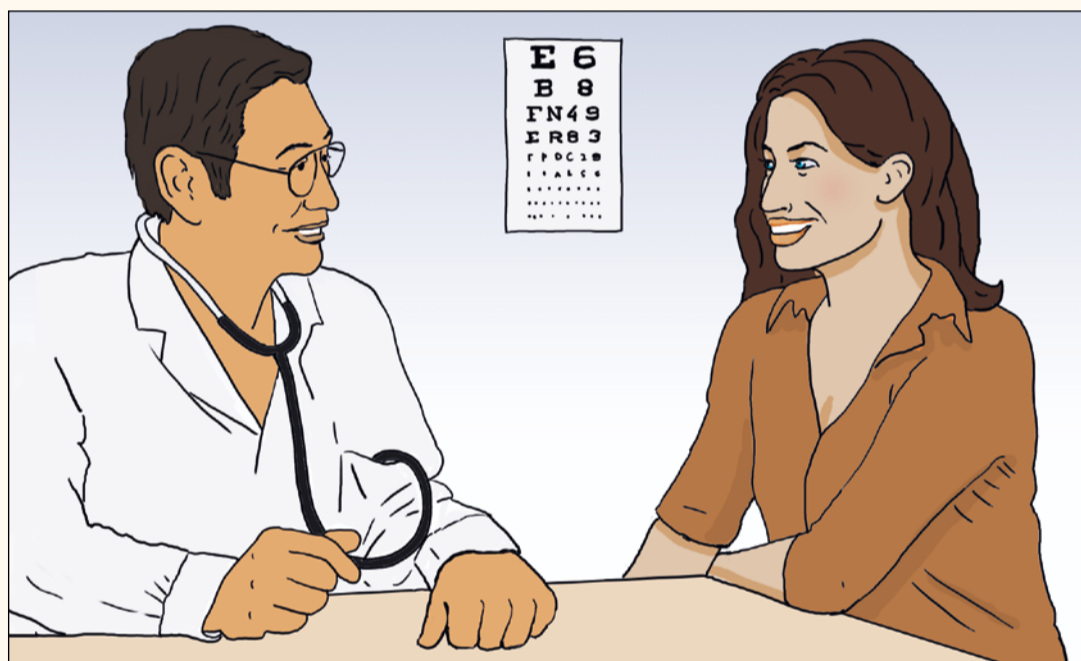
## How do you get infected with TB?

When a person with lung TB coughs or sneezes, bacteria are spread into the air by small droplets that are too small to see. Other people who inhale this air can become infected. TB does not spread easily, so it is most common to be infected by a close contact, such as a family member.

## Symptoms of TB

The most common symptoms of TB are:

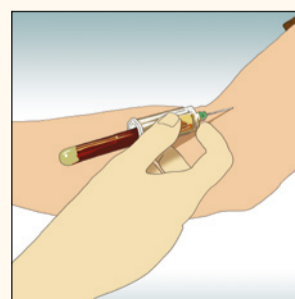
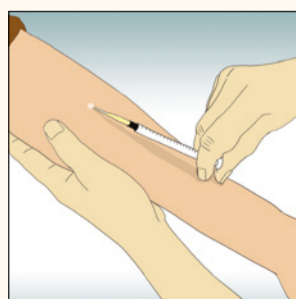
- cough for 2-3 weeks or longer
- loss of appetite
- weight loss (becoming thinner)
- feeling weak and tired
- having a fever over a period of time
- night sweats
- swelling or lumps in the throat, armpits or groin



Someone who has one or more of these symptoms should go and see a doctor.

## Mandatory TB examination

Some groups must have a TB examination. This includes people arriving from countries where TB is common, and who will stay in Norway for longer than three months. The examination method varies between groups, and may include a lung X-ray, a blood test, a skin test, or questions about exposure to infection.



The aim of the examination is to detect the disease as early as possible, to offer treatment and to prevent further spread.