



Division of Community and Public Health

Section: 7.0 Court Force Handbook

Reviewed May 2020

Subsection: 7.07 Tuberculosis Fact Sheet

Page 1 of 2

Presented by the

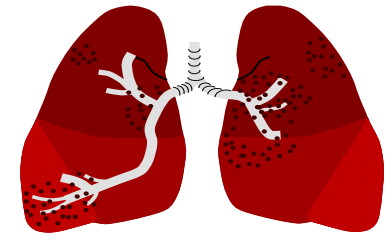


Missouri Department of

Health

And

Senior Services



**FOR
OFFICERS OF THE COURT
AND
TRANSPORTERS**



WHAT IS TUBERCULOSIS

**TUBERCULOSIS
FACT SHEET**



Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious disease caused by a type of bacteria called mycobacterium tuberculosis.

TB usually attacks the lungs, but may cause disease in any part of the body. TB disease is the leading cause of death in the world.

IF I AM AROUND SOMEONE WITH TB, WILL I CATCH IT?

Usually, a person needs to spend a lot of time with a TB patient before they become infected. People that live in the same house or work with the person daily are the most at risk. Spending a few hours with a person is usually not enough to catch TB.

HOW DO YOU GET TB?

TB is spread through the air from one person to another. The bacteria get into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, talks, or sings. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria and become infected. TB is NOT spread by sharing dishes, drinking glasses, clothing or touching a person with the disease.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

There are special masks (N-95) that you can wear when you are around a TB patient. These masks block the germs in the air so you can't breathe them into your lungs. These

masks filter the air before you inhale it. If you are wearing your masks, the TB patient does not need to wear their mask.

CAN A TB PATIENT SAFELY BE IN A COURTROOM?

If the TB patient is wearing a surgical mask at all times, they should not be able to transmit TB. Since TB is spread only through the air, if masks are worn – it will be enough protection.

SHOULD THE TB PATIENT WEAR A MASK?

If a person has TB they should wear a regular surgical mask. This keeps the TB germs from entering the air. If a TB patient is wearing their mask, people around them do not need to wear the surgical mask.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM IN THE CAR WITH A TB PATIENT?

Either you or the TB patient should wear your mask at all times. Since TB is spread only through the air, if masks are worn – it will be enough protection.

HOW LONG IS SOMEONE WITH TB CONTAGIOUS?

A person with TB disease is contagious from the time he or she becomes ill until their

sputum does not test positive. The person is not considered cured until a full course of medications have been completed, which is usually at least 6 months.

WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN SOMEONE WITH TB PARTICIPATE IN?

When the person is still contagious he should stay out of crowds, and wear a mask when out in public. If someone visits with a person with TB disease they should wear an appropriate mask. **Once the person is no longer contagious he may return to all normal activities.**

