

National Tuberculosis Care Centre

Employer Information Sheet



Dear Employer

Your employee has just received a diagnosis of tuberculosis (TB). Here are some answers to questions you may have.

The TB Treatment Process

How is TB Treated?

TB is treated with a combination of antibiotics, generally lasting a minimum of six to nine months. The treatment is longer for patients with certain chronic conditions, side effects or drug resistance.

There will be regular appointments so the doctor can assess your employee's treatment progress and well-being.

Once TB treatment is started, the medicines must be taken regularly to ensure a full recovery. Otherwise, relapses and dangerous drug resistance can develop.



What is Directly Observed Therapy (DOT)?



DOT involves taking TB medications while being observed by a healthcare worker at public health polyclinics nationwide, from Monday to Friday.

For Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, pre-packed doses are supplied one day before.

After two months of daily medicines, if the treatment progresses normally, the schedule can become three times weekly, so DOT needs to be done only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

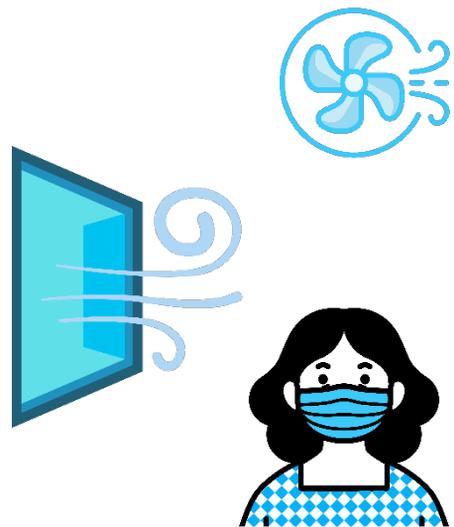
Controlling the Spread of TB

Can my employee spread TB to other people after starting treatment?

People who start TB treatment become much less likely to spread the disease. Thus, the best way to minimise the spread of TB is to ensure they take their TB medicines without lapses.

During the first two weeks after starting treatment, it is still possible to spread TB. Your employee will be given two weeks of hospitalisation leave. During these two weeks, they should:

- cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing
- avoid crowded places
- stay masked in public places
- ensure good ventilation in their residence
- avoid going out, except for visits to NTBCC and the polyclinic
- avoid close contact with children under five years of age, the elderly, pregnant women and other persons with weaker immune systems. (Close contact includes sleeping in the same room.)



Generally, after two weeks of treatment, your employee is no longer able to spread TB to anyone unless they become irregular with or stop taking the medicines.

Do my other employees and and/or persons sharing the same room as the affected employee need to be screened for TB?

If the test results indicate the need to do contact tracing, a Public Health Officer will contact you.

Close contacts will be requested to visit the National Tuberculosis Screening Centre (NTBSC). The screening is fully sponsored by the Communicable Diseases Agency (CDA).

Should you have enquiries, the contact tracing team can be contacted from Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5.30 pm, at ntbp@cda.gov.sg or 9836 1082.

If a close contact is exhibiting symptoms of TB, get them to see a doctor immediately.

If Your Employee is a Migrant Worker

Do I need to isolate my affected employee living in the dormitory?

If possible, for the first two weeks of treatment, let them sleep in a separate room that is well ventilated: windows open, fan blowing towards the window.

If no separate room is available, ensure good ventilation in the shared quarters.

Can my migrant employee with TB continue working in Singapore?

Continued work pass approval is possible if the employer is willing to continue employment, and the relevant authorities approve.

Upon starting TB treatment, a memo is provided for your submission to the authorities. It confirms that your employee has started treatment for TB. On the subsequent appointment (usually after two weeks), a second memo can be provided upon request, stating that your employee will remain non-infectious if they continue to adhere to TB treatment.

How much will I need to pay for my employee's TB treatment?

The minimum total cost for a six-month TB treatment is \$3,300. This is assuming your employee has no side effects and the treatment progresses normally.

This treatment cost includes consultation charges and investigations. TB medicines are fully sponsored by the government.

Please provide a letter of guarantee to your employee so we can charge the fees to you.

My employee will be flying back to their country. What do I need to do?

Your employee is advised to complete at least two weeks of TB treatment and consult the doctor before leaving the country. Please proceed to purchase plane ticket after your employee is cleared to travel. This ensures the safety of people on board the same flight.

A medical report will be provided to facilitate the continuation of treatment in the home country. Two weeks of TB medicines will be prescribed, so the treatment is not interrupted.

For more information about tuberculosis and how it spreads, please refer to the Your TB Treatment Journey information sheet.

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Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm

Closed on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays



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