

Tuberculosis Contact Notification

(For contacts of drug susceptible TB cases)

Dear Sir/Madam:

We would like to inform you that **you were identified to have been in close contact with someone who has active tuberculosis (TB) disease.** For your health and according to Article 48 of the Communicable Disease Control Act, persons who have been exposed to patients with communicable diseases or who are suspected of being infected with communicable diseases are mandatory for required examinations.

What is TB?

Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne disease caused by a germ called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB usually affects the lungs and the general symptoms of TB disease include the following: prolonged coughing for more than 2 weeks, loss of energy, loss of weight, poor appetite, fever, night sweats, chest pain, and coughing up blood.

What is Latent TB Infection (LTBI)?

People with latent infection have dormant (sleeping) TB germs in their body, but they do not have the symptoms of TB disease. **They cannot spread TB germs to anyone else.** However, they may develop TB disease in the near future. Overall, the risk of developing TB disease in a person with LTBI is around 10% during his/her life, and the chance of infected people developing TB disease is the greatest in the first two years after infection.

What Should I Do?

We will arrange chest X-ray for you.

- ◆ CXR: To evaluate if you have active TB disease.

1st CXR appointed on (date) _____
2nd CXR at 12 months appointed on (date) _____

We will arrange LTBI test for you if you are eligible to receive LTBI testing and treatment, including TST (for contacts younger than 5 years old) or IGRA (for contacts aged above 5 years old).

- ◆ TST: The most common way to tell if you have latent TB infection, which is performed by injecting 0.1 ml of PPD (purified protein derivative) into the inner surface of the forearm. A person given the skin test must return within 48 to 72 hours to record the reaction on the arm.

TST appointed on (date) _____, read on (date) _____

- ◆ **IGRA:** IGRA is a complementary examination which can determine LTBI more precisely for contacts aged above 5 years old. Professional personnel will draw a blood sample about 3CC.

IGRA appointed on (date) _____, read on (date) _____

- ◆ **Referral:** If you have a positive LTBI test or an abnormal CXR, you will be referred to a chest or infectious disease specialist for further evaluation. If you are suspected of having TB disease based on CXR results, your physician may ask you to provide sputum for further evaluation.
- ◆ **Prevention:** If you have latent TB infection but not TB disease, you are suggested to take the latent TB treatment to prevent you from developing TB disease after physician evaluation; meanwhile, we will offer directly observed preventive therapy (DOPT) to help you adhere to treatment and monitor possible side effects closely.

Additional Information

- ◆ Please remember to receive chest X-ray examination as scheduled.
- ◆ Keep monitoring your health status, if you had TB symptoms, please seek medical care immediately and inform your doctor of the history of TB exposure.
- ◆ Provide accurate contact information to your school if you just recently graduated.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the following person.

Name: Address: Phone: Department of Health, City/County Government:
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Receipt

I have read and understood the above information.

Name: _____

Cosigner's name: _____ (the relationship with the contact: _____)

Date: _____

If the contact's age is under 20 years old, the form must be cosigned by his/her legal representative.