

# TB TIPS

*TB anywhere is TB everywhere*



## Is it Latent TB Infection or Active TB Disease?

5<sup>th</sup> Edition: Fall/Winter 2014

The diagnosis of latent TB infection (LTBI) is based on information gathered from the medical history, Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) / PPD or IGRA (Interferon-Gamma Release Assay), Chest X-ray, physical exam and in certain circumstances, sputum testing. The presence of Active TB disease must be excluded before treatment for LTBI is initiated. Failure to do so may result in inadequate treatment and development of drug resistant TB.

### Latent TB Infection (LTBI)

- No symptoms or physical findings suggestive of Active TB disease
- TST / PPD reactive with induration or IGRA positive
- Chest X-ray is typically normal
- If done, sputum specimens are acid-fast bacilli (AFB) smear negative and mycobacteria culture negative
- Cannot spread TB bacteria to others. Does not need to be isolated from others.
- Consider treatment for LTBI

### Active TB Disease

- Symptoms present such as prolonged cough, hemoptysis, fever, chest pain, decreased appetite, fatigue, night sweats
- TST / PPD usually reactive with induration or IGRA usually positive
- Chest X-ray is typically abnormal
- Sputum or other specimens are usually acid-fast bacilli (AFB) smear positive and mycobacteria culture positive
- Can spread TB bacteria to others. Needs to be isolated from others.
- Needs treatment for TB disease

Ontario County Public Health provides treatment and case management at no charge to individuals with latent TB infection and active TB disease. For more information please call:

Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm  
TB Coordinator Lisa Carmer, RN, BSN  
585-396-4559 or 585-396-4343

OR

After-Hours, Weekends, & Holidays  
On-Call Public Health Nurse  
585-394-4560

Ontario County Public Health • 3019 County Complex Drive • Canandaigua NY 14424

