

<u>World TB Day</u>, which falls on March 24, aims to build awareness about tuberculosis (TB).

TB remains an epidemic in much of the world, causing nearly 1.5 million deaths annually, mostly in developing countries.

The World Health Organization reports that the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed years of progress, as we're seeing the <u>first increase</u> in TB-related deaths and disease in over a decade.

Tuberculosis is preventable and treatable and healthcare providers play an important role in ending TB.

## Think TB

• Recognize symptoms and risk factors for who should be tested.

# Test for TB

- TST or IGRA blood test for latent TB infection (LTBI).
- (Complete CXR for positive TST/IGRA result and 3 sputum samples if clinically indicated)

# <u>Treat for TB</u>

• Prescribe shorter regimens to help patients finish treatment.

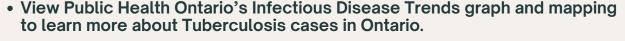
## **REMINDERS:**

All positive TST are to be reported to Grey Bruce Public Health, 519-376-9420 ext. 6.

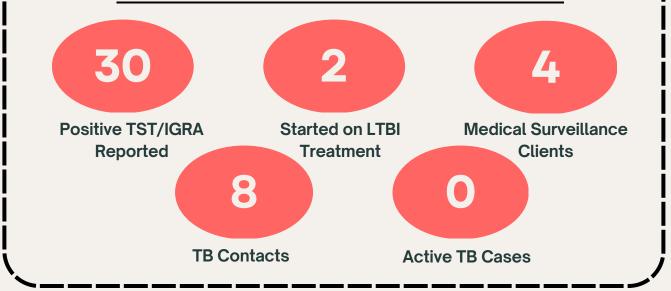
- TB medication is provided free of charge through Public Health.
- Tubersol can be ordered for patients who qualify for publicly funded TST:
  - To screen contacts of cases of active TB to assess transmission
  - New Immigrants
  - When deemed medically necessary (e.g., immunocompromised patient)
  - To screen people < 65 years old prior to admission to Long-term Care
  - When required for students by an educational institution (School, Community College, or University)

\*TB skin testing is not funded for employment purposes

Public Health Ontario | Infectious Disease Trends







# NEW Canadian Tuberculosis Standards 8th Ed.

The new <u>Canadian Tuberculosis Standards 8th Edition</u> was released in 2022. The most significant changes have been around Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) treatment regimens. There are two new shorter first-line treatment recommendations that replace the 9 months of Isoniazid (INH).

First Line Treatment for LTBI: Canadian Tuberculosis Standards 8th Ed. (2022) Full article: <u>Chapter 6: Tuberculosis preventive treatment in adults (tandfonline.com)</u>

#### **3HP treatment**

Rifapentine and INH once weekly for 3 months

OR

#### **4R Treatment**

Rifampin self-administered daily for 4 months

For alternative treatment options or drug resistant, please refer to the Canadian Tuberculosis Standards.

TST/IGRA Interpreter: The Online TST/IGRA Interpreter (tstin3d.com)

World TB risk map: Stop TB Partnership | Map Dashboard (stoptb.org)

BCG World Atlas: BCG World Atlas (bcgatlas.org)

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