

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) — ONE-PAGE FACT SHEET

Treatments are available — and need to be completed

DO YOU KNOW? If not given proper treatment, 1 in 10 people with latent TB infection will develop active TB disease. In Virginia (2020–2024), only 83.7% of adults with active TB completed treatment — well below the U.S. target of 95%.

DISEASE SYMPTOMS • Chronic cough (≥ 3 weeks) • Coughing up blood • Fever, especially in the evening • Night sweats • Unexplained weight loss • Fatigue and lack of energy • Chest pain when breathing or coughing <i>If you experience these symptoms, visit the nearest healthcare provider for TB testing.</i>	DISEASE TYPES Latent TB Infection: TB bacteria are present but inactive — you are not sick and cannot spread TB. You may still develop active disease later if untreated. Active TB Disease: TB bacteria are multiplying and causing symptoms. You are sick and can spread TB to others through the air. Treatment lasts 6–24 months and MUST be completed. <i>Both types are curable when treatment is completed.</i>
INDIVIDUALS AT RISK • People experiencing homelessness or unstable housing • People with HIV or weakened immune systems • Chronic smokers and people with heavy alcohol use • People born in countries where TB is common • Infants, children, and elderly adults • Close contacts of a person with active TB • Healthcare workers in high-risk settings <i>Talk to your doctor about testing if you belong to a higher-risk group.</i>	APPROACHES TO ERADICATE TB • Vigilant public health surveillance • Better diagnostics and shorter-course treatments • Testing and treatment of high-risk populations • Structural support: housing, nutrition, transportation • Directly observed therapy (DOT) and patient navigation • Education of healthcare providers — Think TB! • Community-based programs like FERI-TB in Northern Virginia
24 MARCH IS WORLD TB DAY!	Foundation for Equity, Recovery, and Initiative in TB (FERI-TB) Norfolk, VA feritb.com sdworgee@feritb.com