

THE IMPORTANCE OF TREATMENT FOR INACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS (TB) INFECTION

Your health and the health of your friends and loved ones is important.

You have been diagnosed with inactive tuberculosis (TB) infection, also called latent TB infection (LTBI). Inactive TB infection is not contagious, but it can break down to active TB disease at any time. Treating inactive TB infection before symptoms start will help protect your health and the health of those around you.



Active TB Disease and its problems:

- When someone has active TB disease, the bacteria can be spread to others through the air and may cause infection of friends and loved ones.
- TB disease is a devastating illness affecting work and other activities, and if untreated, can cause death.
- Treatment for active TB disease takes 6 months to 18 months, and requires daily, weekly, and monthly visits to the health clinic.

Inactive TB infection and prevention:

- People with inactive TB infection cannot spread the bacteria to others unless their TB becomes active (they start having symptoms).
- To prevent breaking down to active TB disease, your healthcare provider is prescribing LTBI treatment for you.
- Treatment for inactive TB infection, LTBI treatment, is much shorter than TB disease, most taking 3 to 4 months to complete.
- Important: Most people with inactive TB infection break down to active TB disease during the first two years. Starting and completing LTBI treatment prevents progression to active TB disease.

Scan the QR codes with your cellphone camera or click the links for more information on TB Disease and LTBI Treatment:

- *Side effects and when to call your healthcare clinic:* This important information for any of the LTBI treatments can be found in the *LTBI Treatment Tracker: 4 Month Rifampin*, open QR code below for this information sheet.

[CDC What you need to know about TB](#)



[CDC Questions and Answers about TB](#)



[LTBI Treatment Tracker: 4 Month Rifampin](#)



[CDC Personal Story of LTBI- Video](#)

