

# Tuberculosis Contact Investigations

## 1 What are Tuberculosis (TB) Contact Investigations?

- 1.1 TB Contact investigations are ancillary tuberculosis (TB) control measures mainly targeted at high-risk contacts.

## 2 Who are high-risk contacts?

- 2.1 High-risk contacts refer to people with prolonged or frequent close contact with the TB patients within 3 months before the commencement of TB treatment.

## 3 Why are Contact Investigations done?

### 3.1 Contact investigations help:

- 3.1.1 identify contacts with TB disease, and treat accordingly,
- 3.1.2 identify contacts with latent TB infection, and offer them preventive treatment,
- 3.1.3 increase awareness among contacts about TB disease and its symptoms, which helps avoid delay in diagnosis.

## 4 When are Contact Investigations considered?

- 4.1 Public health nurses will consider whether contact investigations are needed whenever a diagnosis of TB disease is made..

## 5 What happens during contact investigations?

- 5.1 Public health nurses will contact the TB patient to collect relevant information for arranging contact investigations. All information is kept confidential.

**‘ What should I do to protect my family and my close friends? ’**

**‘ How long have you been coughing or feeling sick? ’**

**‘Think about your contacts. They are your family members and others who always spent time with you. Protect your family and someone close to you’**

**‘ Where do you live?’ ‘Who often spend time with you?’ ‘ Do you go to school? ’**

**‘Please give the names and phone numbers of your contacts. ’**

A medical consultation, chest x-ray or tuberculin skin test may be arranged for a high-risk contact.