

## **Tuberculosis and Chest Service, Department of Health**

### **Transmission and Causes of Tuberculosis**

Tuberculosis is an airborne infections disease which is transmitted by breathing in small air droplets containing germs called tubercle bacilli.

When the human body is being infected by tubercle bacilli, there is inflammation in the lung, which later heals and subsides, leading to fibrosis and calcification.

Lymph node may be enlarged or calcified.

Not everyone exposed to a source of TB infection will be infected, and those infected may not develop disease. Only about one out of ten infected individuals will develop disease as a life-time risk. The chance for infection progressing to disease will increase when the body resistance is decreased.

Persons with relatively higher chances of developing disease:

- Patients with impaired immunity e.g. HIV infection, malignancy, diabetes mellitus, pneumoconiosis, malnutrition and elderly subjects.

When disease develops, the lung may be invaded by tubercle bacilli resulting in the formation of cavity.

Tuberculosis can be completely cured with early diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

TB & Chest Service Telephone InfoLine: 2572 6024

Welcome to the website [http://www.info.gov.hk/tb\\_chest](http://www.info.gov.hk/tb_chest)

24 March World TB Day Let's Know More About Tuberculosis

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