TUBERCULOSIS in Contra Costa County 2014

48 Number of People Diagnosed with TB Disease in 2014

4.4 TB Disease Rate per 100,000 People in Contra Costa

5.6 TB Disease Rate per 100,000 People in California

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by a bacteria that is passed from person to person through the air. Not everyone who becomes infected with TB will become sick: most people will get what is called latent TB. This means they have the TB bacteria in their body but their immune system is keeping the bacteria under control. People with latent TB do not have any TB symptoms and cannot pass on the disease, but they are at risk of getting sick with TB disease in the future if their immune system can no longer keep the TB bacteria under control. Both TB disease and latent TB are treatable and curable!

For more information, call the Contra Costa Public Health Tuberculosis Program at 925-313-6740 or visit cchealth.org
Almost half of people with TB disease in 2014 had a medical comorbidity, a serious medical condition in addition to TB disease. Medical comorbidities can make people more vulnerable to TB disease.

TB disease can occur in the lungs (pulmonary) or in other parts of the body (extrapulmonary). More than half of people with TB disease in 2014 had disease in extrapulmonary tissue such as lymph nodes, bone or muscle.

When a person is diagnosed with TB disease, Public Health staff make sure the people who have spent a lot of time with that person get tested for TB. These people are called “contacts”. Testing and treating contacts prevents the spread of TB to more people.

The best treatment for TB disease uses four antibiotics: isoniazid (INH), rifampin, ethambutol and pyrazinamide. In patients with drug-resistant TB disease, alternate medicines are necessary but TB disease can still be cured.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Contra Costa Public Health staff in controlling tuberculosis, and in caring for people with TB and their families.