Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by 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!

If a person comes from a country with a high rate of TB, that person is more likely than other Contra Costa residents to have latent TB infection. Five to 10 percent of people with latent TB will go on to get sick with TB disease – sometimes many years later.

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 2015 had a risk factor that made them more vulnerable to TB disease. These risk factors can also complicate TB treatment.

### Drug Resistance

 Padres 9%

Percent of people with TB disease with demonstrated resistance to one or more first-line TB medications. (2010-2014)

### Total Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) Visits, 2015

3735

Public Health staff also provide Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) to people with TB. DOT is a service where a Public Health staff member goes to a person’s house every day to make sure they take their medications correctly. TB treatment takes a long time and if the medications are not taken correctly, the person may not be cured. DOT ensures people get cured.

Prepared by Contra Costa Health Services, Public Health Communicable Disease Programs. Data obtained from the Contra Costa Public Health Tuberculosis Program and the California Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Branch.

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