

Who are most at risk of getting infected with tuberculosis?

The individuals most at risk are those in close and prolonged contact with a sick person who is contagious, i.e., domestic and other intimate contacts. The most vulnerable are children, elderly persons and those whose physical resistance is compromised by other diseases or by their lifestyle.

Once infected, will an individual develop active tuberculosis?

The majority of individuals infected by the microbe will not develop the disease. The risk of developing the disease is greater among:

- young children and adolescents;
- individuals whose physical resistance is compromised by:
 - an important disease such as diabetes, HIV infection or cancer, or a form of treatment that weakens the immune system;
 - their lifestyle, such as alcoholism, substance abuse, poor nutrition.

Is there a treatment for tuberculosis?

Yes, and it is essential. When the medication is taken as prescribed, tuberculosis will heal and become non-contagious. The patient will thus avoid serious complications, besides protecting his or her loved ones. Note that in Québec, tuberculosis is a disease subject to obligatory treatment. It is treated with several medications (generally from two to four different types) that must be taken regularly for a period of 6 to 12 months. Thanks to the effectiveness of the medications used, the contagiousity of cases generally diminishes rapidly.

Nunavimmiut may contact their CLSC for additional information.

*The NRBHSS is a public agency created in 1978 under the **James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement**. It is responsible for nearly the entire Québec territory located north of the 55th parallel in terms of the provision of health and social services for the inhabitants of the 14 communities.*

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Source: Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services
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This communiqué is also posted on our Web site at www.rrss17.gouv.qc.ca.