

You have Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI)

You have latent tuberculosis (TB) infection (LTBI), also known as **inactive TB**. This is an infection with TB germs that are kept inactive by your body's immune system. If your body cannot stop TB germs from growing, you can develop TB disease, also known as **active TB**. TB disease is one of the world's leading infectious disease killers. Getting treatment for LTBI is the best way to protect yourself from getting sick with TB disease. Because you had a positive TB blood test, taking treatment for LTBI is recommended even if you do not have other health problems.

Treating LTBI can prevent you from becoming sick with TB disease.

TB disease is a serious disease that can make you very sick.
TB disease can be deadly.

The differences between LTBI and TB disease

A person with LTBI (inactive TB) :	A person with TB disease (active TB) :
Does not feel sick	May feel sick
Has a normal chest x-ray	May have an abnormal x-ray
Has a positive TB blood test referred to as IGRA (Interferon-gamma release assay)	May or may not have a positive TB blood test (IGRA)
Cannot spread TB germs to others	Can spread TB germs to others through the air
Can be treated to prevent TB disease	Can be treated to cure TB disease
Treatment can be shorter (3-4 months)*	Treatment is 4-12 months or more
Can travel to the U.S. without treatment	Must complete treatment before travel to the U.S.

Get Treated for LTBI to Prevent TB Disease

You can get treatment for LTBI when you arrive to the United States. Call your local health department's TB program (<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/php/tb-programs/index.html>) or talk to a healthcare provider.

You may be able to get treatment for LTBI in your country before leaving for the United States. Taking the medicine will not affect your immigration status. If you take medicine for LTBI before leaving your country, make sure to keep all records and share them with your healthcare provider in the United States.

Please bring this paper and any other TB documentation provided by your panel physician to your healthcare provider in the United States to discuss starting treatment for LTBI.

For information about shorter treatment and LTBI, visit: www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/treatment/ltbi.htm

