

TB Elimination Program FACT SHEET

About TB Elimination Program

Tuberculosis (TB) was once the leading cause of death in the United States. Due to increased efforts in TB control in the early 1990s, the number of TB cases in the US has decreased significantly since 1993. However, even with these record low rates of TB disease, there is still a global epidemic. About one-third of the world's population is infected with the TB bacteria. The purpose of the Tuberculosis Elimination Program is to reduce, and, ultimately, eliminate TB in Nashville.

About Services

The TB Elimination Program works with community agencies, providers, and hospitals to identify persons in Davidson County who have tuberculosis.

Our services include:

- TB screening and testing of high-risk individuals
- Diagnosis and preventive treatment for those with latent TB infection (LTBI)
- Diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up services for those with active TB disease
- Contact investigations to identify, evaluate, and treat individuals who have been exposed to active TB disease
- Directly observed therapy to all persons with TB disease, children, and some high-risk contacts
- Community education
- Screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment are provided free of charge. A \$10.00 fee is charged for some reports.

TB Elimination Highlights

- The TB clinic was one of the first organizations in Tennessee to switch to using an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA), which is a blood test that assists in diagnosing TB infection. IGRAs are preferred to the TB skin test in most situations.
- The TB clinic is working with the state TB program as a pilot site for tracking LTBI cases. Tracking of LTBI allows for higher rates of LTBI treatment completion. Completion of LTBI treatment lowers a person's risk of developing TB disease in the future.
- MPH D partners with Vanderbilt University to act as an enrollment site for TB Trials Consortium (TBTC) and TB Epidemiologic Studies Consortium (TBESC). These two consortiums are CDC-based research programs that focus on TB diagnostics and treatment.