

Tuberculosis information for close contacts

Information for the community

You do not need to be alarmed if you have been close with someone with active tuberculosis (TB).

TB is a bacteria that moves slowly – it's not a fast moving virus like COVID.

Should I get checked?

It's a good idea to visit your local clinic and get checked if:

- > you have been living in the same house as someone who has active TB
- > you have spent a lot of time with someone with active TB who was coughing
- > you have shared bongs with someone who has active TB.



It's especially important for children, older people and people with other health problems like diabetes to get checked. This is because they are at more risk of getting sick.

What if I live with someone with active TB?

If someone has active lung TB but is having treatment, they are safe to be close to after they have been taking their medications and their symptoms have improved.

Before that, wear a mask if you are close and they are coughing, speaking or singing.

You can't get TB germs from things like clothing, bedding, cups or plates.



Contact tracing

If there are people with active TB in your community, SA TB Services will ask them about who they have been in close contact with. This is to make sure they are okay.

If someone from SA TB Services speaks to you about this, let them know if you have any concerns or are worried about anyone being sick.



For more information:

Royal Adelaide Hospital, SA TB Services
Telephone: (08) 7074 1089 (business hours)
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

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