

# 1-2-3s of TB

## 1. Recognize Signs of Tuberculosis (TB)

TB isn't always obvious.

- **Consider TB** when a patient presents with cough, fever, night sweats, hemoptysis, or unexplained weight loss.
- **Be aware of abnormal chest x-ray (CXR) findings**, as TB can be misdiagnosed as other respiratory illnesses.
- A thorough **history and physical** assessment will help identify TB risk factors and symptoms.
- TB can be found **anywhere in the body**.
- Recognizing TB is especially **critical in children**. They are more likely to develop TB meningitis.

### Risk Factors Associated with TB Patients Reported in Texas in 2017



## 2. Order the Right Tests

A TB diagnosis requires a full evaluation.

- The TB skin test or blood test, a CXR, mycobacteriology testing, and symptom assessment can support a TB diagnosis.
- **One negative test result** (i.e. TB blood test, TB skin test, acid fast bacilli (AFB) smear) **doesn't necessarily mean TB isn't there**.
  - AFB smear results (negative or positive) should be followed by rapid testing (such as a polymerase chain reaction [PCR]) and cultures when tuberculosis is on the differential.
- Consult your local health department any time TB is considered.

## 3. Report to Public Health

If you suspect TB, report TB!

- TB is a notifiable condition in Texas, so **be sure to report** probable and confirmed cases of TB to the health department. (see [dshs.texas.gov/idcu/investigation/conditions/](https://dshs.texas.gov/idcu/investigation/conditions/))
- **Ask the experts!** Consult your local health department TB Program if you have questions.

My local health department TB contact is:

# THINK TB!



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