

COVID-19 and Tuberculosis

The coronavirus (or COVID-19) pandemic has made the focus on tuberculosis (or TB) prevention and treatment more necessary and urgent in the state of Virginia.

COVID-19

< VS >

TB

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a virus that can spread from person-to-person

TB is a serious and sometimes deadly illness caused by bacteria that usually attacks the lungs, but can also affect other parts of the body

Additional COVID-19 Symptoms

Symptoms may develop **2-14 days** after exposure

Other possible symptoms:

- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- congestion or runny nose
- nausea or vomiting
- muscle or body aches
- diarrhea
- bilateral abnormalities on chest x-ray

Shared Symptoms of TB Disease and COVID-19

Both COVID-19 and TB may cause:

- cough
- shortness of breath
- fever
- chills
- fatigue
- chest pain
- abnormal chest x-ray

Both can spread when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, or talks

Additional TB Disease Symptoms

Symptoms may develop after **weeks to years** if not treated for latent TB infection

Other possible symptoms:

- night sweats
- coughing up blood or phlegm
- weight loss
- unilateral abnormalities on chest x-ray

Who is at a Higher Risk for TB?

- People who have **lived in or visited another country** other than the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or Western and Northern Europe
- Those who have a **weakened immune system** (e.g., HIV, organ transplant, cancer, diabetes, etc.)
- History of **close contact** to someone who has TB disease
- People who have experienced **homelessness or been incarcerated**

Recommendations

- Test for TB in individuals with **TB risk factors**
- Encourage and initiate appropriate **treatment**
- Test for COVID-19 in individuals with a **new cough**
- Encourage **physical distancing** and **wearing a mask** when around others
- Encourage frequent **hand washing** and **surface disinfection**
- Encourage [COVID-19 vaccination](#)

ADD YOUR PHONE TO THE COVID FIGHT
HELP VIRGINIA STOP COVID-19

COVIDWISE.ORG

Where to Get Tested/More Information

- Info on COVID-19: www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus
 - Have questions? Call the VDH hotline 877-ASK-VDH3 (877-275-8343)
 - COVID-19 Testing: www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-testing
- Info on TB: www.vdh.virginia.gov/tuberculosis/tb-disease