An Educational Resource Guide on Tuberculosis for Children
Bureau of Tuberculosis & Refugee Health (BTBRH)
Florida Department of Health - Division of Disease Control
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 245-4350
WHO IS MR. TUBER?

Color Mr. Tuber – the germ

Mr. Tuber is a nickname for Tuberculosis or TB, which is a tiny germ that is breathed through the air into the lungs.
How are TB germs spread?

A person can spread TB through coughing, sneezing, laughing, or singing.
It is easier for adults to pass TB to others than it is for children to pass TB, but you should always cover your mouth when you cough.
Color the faces

TB germs can spread to anyone including babies, children, animals, and adults. Millions of people can have the TB germ and not feel sick.
TB germs like living in the lungs, but they can multiply and travel to other parts of the body such as, the kidneys, bones, or brain.
Did you know your body can build a wall around TB germs?

Your body can build a “wall” or “capsule” around TB germs. This can cause the TB germs to go into a sleeping stage.
A person with TB infection has the germ in his or her body, but they have no signs or symptoms, nor can they spread the disease. Sometimes the germs are asleep in the body.
What happens if the germ wakes up?

If the germ breaks out of the “capsule” or “wall” it can start to multiply. This could happen in a year or many years later. In most cases it happens when the body is weak from fighting other infections such as: HIV, diabetes, kidney disease, pneumonia, or cancer. When the TB germ breaks out of its capsule, the person could have TB disease.
What happens if a person has TB disease?

A person with TB disease has germs in his or her body and may have a cough, tiredness, weakness, fever, weight loss, or coughing up blood. This can happen within a year of Mr. Tuber getting into their body.
How would I know if Mr. Tuber is in my body?

A nurse can test you for TB by giving you a skin test on your arm or by doing a blood test. After 2 or 3 days, you must return for the nurse to check your arm for swelling.
What does it mean if the nurse says my test is negative or positive?

If it is negative:
(there is no swelling)
You probably do not have TB, but you may need to be tested again later.

If it is positive:
(there is a big swelling)
You have the TB infection and Mr. Tuber’s germs are in your body. This does not mean you are sick, but you must see a doctor.
What happens when I see a doctor?

You may need more tests. The doctor may recommend that you take medicine, if so, be sure to take all of it.
TB is a serious illness!

Remember, a person who has been exposed to TB should...

Get tested
Get results
Follow the doctor’s orders
Take all the medicine as directed
Unscramble the new words you learned about TB

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Doctor    cure     sick
Disease   germ    treatment
Test      lungs
Tuberculosis symptoms
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DOH-About Tuberculosis (TB)

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Of
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