

What do I need to know about latent TB?

If you have lived in a country where TB is common there is about a 1 in 4 chance that you have breathed in TB bacteria which are now 'asleep' in your body. These sleeping TB bacteria, known as latent TB, can 'wake-up' at any time to make you ill. The good news is that latent TB can be treated with antibiotics before the TB bacteria can wake up and make you ill.

- **You can still develop latent or active TB after you have the BCG vaccination.**
- **Chest x-rays cannot see latent TB. So you could have latent TB even if you have had a clear chest x-ray.**

Speak to your GP receptionist now to find out more. GP services are free, confidential and open to everyone. If you're not yet registered with a GP, find a local practice at: www.nhs.uk

Further information and support

Get information and advice about latent TB from TB Alert, the UK's national tuberculosis charity, on *The Truth About TB* website at: www.thetruthabouttb.org/latent-tb



THE TRUTH ABOUT TB

You may be eligible for a free blood test to look for latent TB, if you:

- are 16-35 years of age
- have settled in England within the last 5 years
- have lived in one of the countries highlighted in dark blue on the map

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now to find out more.**

Prevention
is better
than cure

