Not everyone with TB can spread it. TB is infectious if you have it in your lungs. It can be spread to others by coughing. Most people stop being infectious after taking two weeks of medication — provided they take their medication regularly.

Is TB infectious?

Will my cellmates have caught TB from me?

It depends how long you spent with them and if you are infectious.

Can we still share mugs, loos and all that?

Yes. You can’t get TB from shared stuff.
Can I be cured?

Yes. TB is curable but you must take your treatment regularly for at least 6 months.

Will I have to go to hospital?

Most people do not need to go to hospital but you may be isolated in a cell for 2 weeks to stop your infection spreading.

Who gives me the tablets?

Prison health staff will give you and watch you take your tablets. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you take ALL your tablets correctly!

So who looks after me if I leave this prison?

If you go to another prison, your handover will be arranged by prison medical staff.

If you are released, you will have a TB worker based at your local hospital who will support you during treatment.

For further information contact the health officer in your prison:

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