Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about Tuberculosis (TB)

How is TB diagnosed?
TB infection is typically diagnosed by a skin or blood test. Results are available in one to three days. Most people who are infected will not be sick and cannot give TB to others. If a person is sick with symptoms due to TB, a chest X-ray is required, regardless of the blood test results.

Who needs to be tested?
The Health Center at Auraria and Denver Public Health are directly contacting all individuals who need to be tested. If you are not directly contacted, you likely do not need testing at this time because you were not exposed.

Do my friends, roommates or family members need to get tested?
No. TB infection itself is not contagious and only people directly exposed need to be tested at this time.

When and how will people get test results?
Generally test results are available within one to three days. Denver Public Health will contact each person being tested to share results — negative or positive — as quickly as possible.

What if the test is positive?
If a person tests positive, Denver Public Health will contact that individual for additional evaluation.

Is it safe to come to campus?
Yes. MSU Denver is working closely with Denver Public Health, and has identified people who may have been exposed. There is no reason to be concerned about attending class or MSU Denver events.

Can a person who has been exposed to TB go to class without having been tested?
People who were exposed to TB and do not have symptoms can go to class. However, these people need to get tested for TB as soon as possible. People who were exposed to TB who do have symptoms (coughing, fever or night sweats) should not go to class unless they have already been tested for TB.

How do I know if someone is contagious?
A person with TB can be contagious only if he or she is sick and exhibiting symptoms, such as cough, fever or night sweats. The Health Center at Auraria and Denver Public Health will evaluate anyone who has symptoms that could be due to TB to determine whether he or she has TB and is potentially contagious.

Why am I not being tested?
Only people who are most at risk when the possible exposure occurred need to be tested. If you have not been contacted by the Health Center at Auraria and Denver Public Health, we don’t believe you were exposed.

What are the symptoms of a person sick with TB (also called active TB)?
Some common symptoms of active TB include:

- A cough lasting more than three weeks
- Fever
- Heavy sweating at night
- Loss of appetite
- Unintended weight loss
- Coughing up blood
- Pain in the chest
- Chills
- Weakness or fatigue
**Where can I learn more about TB?**
To speak with someone who can answer your questions and address your concerns 24/7, call 303-389-1687. You can also visit the [Health Center at Auraria website](#) (Click on “Tuberculosis information” under “Health Advisories & Alerts” on the left side of the page). If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact your primary care provider.