***[Replace this text with your organization’s identifier]***

TUBERCULOSIS FACT SHEET

***What is tuberculosis (TB)?***

Tuberculosis (TB) is a treatable bacterial disease that is spread from person to person through the air. TB usually affects the lungs but can affect other parts of the body as well, including the brain, kidneys, or spine. TB bacteria are put into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs coughs, sneezes, talks or sings.

***What are the symptoms of TB?***

TB of the lungs may include cough, chest pain and/or coughing up blood. The general symptoms of TB disease include feeling sick or weak, weight loss, fever, chills, and night sweats.

***How can you tell if someone has TB?***

**Either a tuberculin skin test (TST) or an Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) TB blood test is used** to determine whether or not a person is infected with TB. For the TST, a small amount of tuberculin solution is injected under the skin on the forearm and 2-3 days later, a health care worker checks for a reaction on the arm. For the IGRA blood test, a single blood draw is needed, and the result is generally available within a week. If either test is positive, additional evaluation is needed to determine if the person has TB infection or TB disease.

***What is the difference between latent TB infection and TB disease?***

There are two types of TB: **latent TB infection** (LTBI) and **active TB disease.** A person with latent TB infection is not sick and does not experience any TB symptoms. Persons with latent TB infection **cannot** spread TB bacteria to others because the bacteria are not active. Persons with latent TB infection can be prescribed medicine to prevent them from developing active TB disease.

Persons with **latent TB infection:**

* Have no symptoms and do not feel sick
* Cannot spread TB to others
* Usually have a positive IGRA or TST
* Normal chest x-ray

Persons with **active TB disease:**

* May have symptoms that include prolonged coughing, chills/fever, unexplained weight loss, chest pain, weakness, night sweats
* May spread TB to others
* Usually have a positive IGRA or TST
* Often have an abnormal chest x-ray

***What does it mean to have a “positive” IGRA TB blood test or “positive” TB skin test?***

A positive IGRA blood test or a positive reaction to a TB skin test means that a person’s body was infected with TB bacteria. Additional tests are needed to determine if the person has latent infection or active TB disease. Only about **10%** of people with TB infection will go on to develop active TB disease over the course of their lifetimes.

Additional information on TB can be found at https://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/

For more information, please contact: ***[organization’s main telephone line]***