

# The Myths of Tuberculosis (TB) 1



## TB? No big deal!



There are about 3000 to 4000 new cases every year in Hong Kong with about 200 people died from TB yearly.

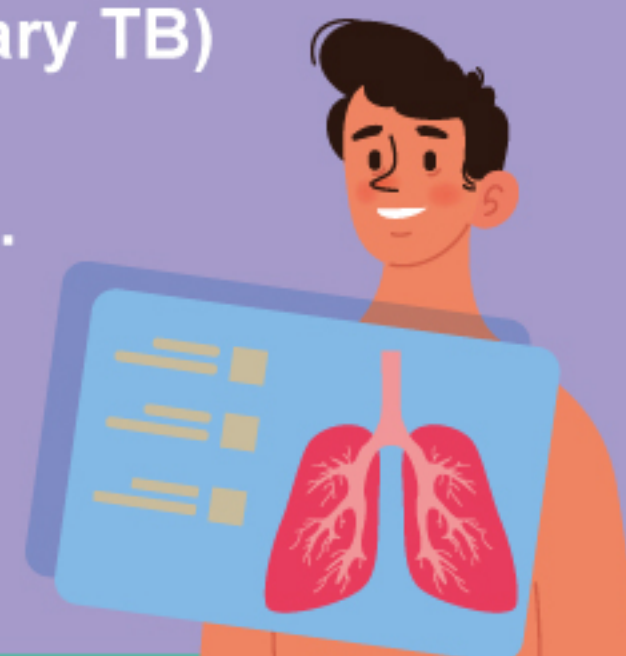
One in every 20 Hong Kong people will develop TB in their lifetime.



## Does TB only affect the lungs?



TB is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It usually affects the lungs (pulmonary TB), but other parts of the body can also be affected (extrapulmonary TB) such as the lymph nodes, kidneys, bones and joints.



## Why do I get TB?



When a person with active pulmonary TB coughs or sneezes, the bacteria get into the air and infect the susceptible person. Infection usually occurs after prolonged contact with the source. Therefore, close contacts and family members should be screened to rule out active TB or the possibility of becoming carriers (i.e. latent TB infection).



## Must all TB patients be isolated?



No! Doctor will recommend isolation on need basis.

Most people can live and work as usual after receiving anti-TB treatment. "Early detection and early treatment" are the keys to success.

