

Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment



The Department of Health recommends four categories of high risk people to undergo TB screening.

Household contacts

People living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)



Pneumoconiosis patients

People taking certain immunosuppressive drugs



People living with TB patients in the same household or other close contacts may have the highest risk of TB infection. TB Screening in them could help early detection of active TB disease or TB infection not yet with disease. Prompt initiation of effective treatment prevents further transmission of TB in the former and reduces the chance of developing active TB in the latter.

Doctor might choose one of the following regimens based on contact's age, clinical condition and the susceptibility pattern of the index TB case if known:

Common choices of TB preventive treatment	Dosing frequency	Treatment duration
Isoniazid	Once a day	6 to 9 months
Isoniazid + Rifapentine	Once a week	12 weeks (under Directly Observed Treatment)
Rifampicin	Once a day	4 months