

Infection control for tuberculosis

Information for clinicians and health workers

It is important to manage risk of tuberculosis (TB) transmission however this is relatively straightforward.

TB infection control in hospitals and healthcare clinics

When a person presents with a cough or other symptoms of TB, it is recommended that:

- > they wear a surgical mask
- > close contact health workers wear an N95 mask or, if unavailable, a surgical mask.

If a person with suspected active TB is in hospital, it is recommended they stay in a single, negative pressure room. If this is not available, the person should be placed in a single room, with appropriate respiratory precautions, while awaiting transfer to a negative pressure room.

There is no need for environmental disinfecting.

If a health worker has TB symptoms

Any health worker displaying symptoms or who believes they have been exposed to active, untreated TB should stay away from work and undergo testing.

Infection control for patients

If a patient is diagnosed with active pulmonary TB disease, they will be advised by their doctor what precautions they should take. In particular, for those who use marijuana, they should not share bongs.

Sometimes if a person is sick or the diagnosis is not yet clear, the person may need to be admitted to hospital.

For more information:

Royal Adelaide Hospital, SA TB Services

Telephone: (08) 7074 1089 (business hours)

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

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