



# Jackson County Health Department

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*Creating Healthy Communities*

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## World Tuberculosis Day

**JACKSON COUNTY, MI** – – Each year, we recognize World TB Day on March 24 to spread knowledge and awareness of Tuberculosis (TB). This annual event commemorates the date in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacteria that causes TB. World TB Day provides an opportunity to increase awareness about TB and the actions needed to find, treat, and prevent this potentially deadly disease.

*Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* bacteria can live in the body for years without symptoms, this is called inactive or latent TB infection (LTBI). The CDC estimates millions of Americans are living with inactive TB. Without treatment, inactive TB can become active TB disease at any time and make you sick. If you have inactive TB, treating it is the best way to protect you from getting sick with active TB disease. There are several short and convenient treatment options available that can help protect you from getting sick with active TB disease.

Common symptoms of TB disease are a persistent cough (lasting more than two weeks), fever, night sweats, unexplained weight loss, chest pain and coughing up blood. TB bacteria spread through the air from one person to another when a person with active TB disease of the lungs coughs, speaks, or sings. People with active TB disease are most likely to spread it to people they spend time with every day; family members, friends, coworkers or schoolmates.

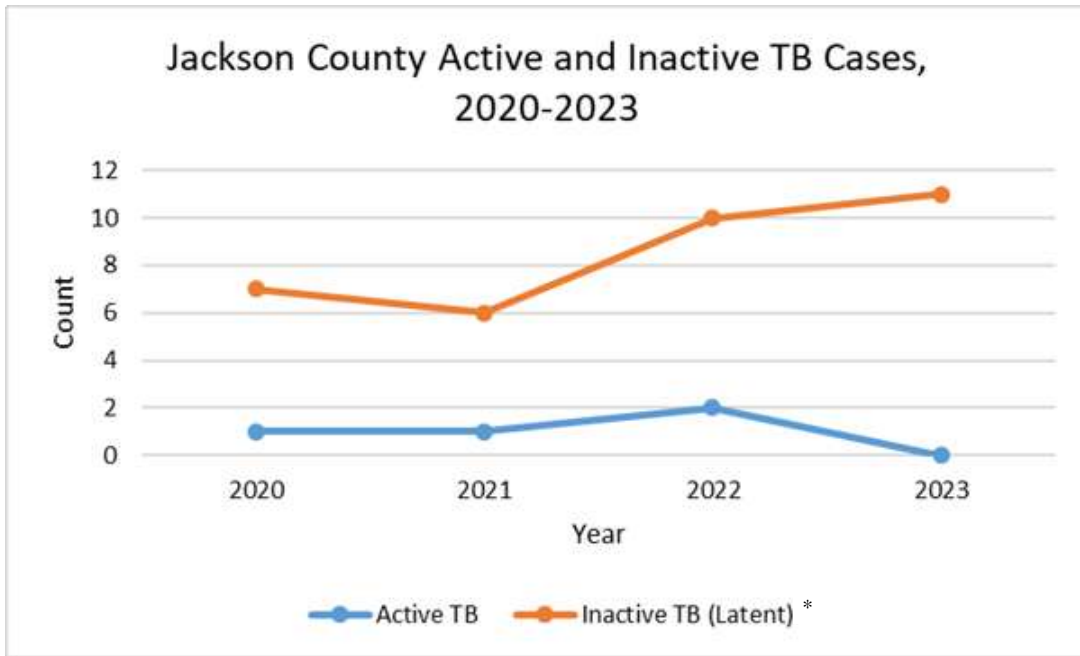
Anyone can get TB, but you might have a higher risk if you:

- Were born in or frequently travel to countries where TB is common, including those in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- Live or used to live in large group settings where TB is more common, such as homeless shelters, prisons, or jails.
- Recently spent time with someone who has active TB disease.
- Have a weaker immune system because of certain medications or health conditions such as diabetes, cancer, and HIV.
- Work in places with a high risk for TB transmission, such as hospitals, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, and nursing homes.

Individuals at higher risk of developing active TB disease should be tested. There are two types of tests for inactive TB infection: the TB skin test and the TB blood test. TB tests are generally not needed for people with a low risk of infection with TB bacteria.

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Working together to create and promote a healthy community through disease prevention and control, health education, environmental protection and emergency preparedness.



\*Inactive or latent TB is not a required reportable disease under the Public Health Law. The Jackson County Health Department began tracking reported inactive TB cases in 2020 and the numbers may not reflect the actual number of inactive TB cases in Jackson County.

The Immunization Department at the Jackson County Health Department (JCHD) offers walk in TB skin testing Monday, Tuesday and Friday every week from 8:00am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 4:00pm. For more information, call (517)-788-4477.

The Communicable Disease Department at JCHD provides surveillance and case management of inactive and active TB disease. For questions or additional information, please call (517) 768-1664. You may also find additional information about inactive and active TB at [www.cdc.gov/tb](http://www.cdc.gov/tb)

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