

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

on TB Vaccine Research



For more information about TB vaccines visit our website
www.aeras.org/ce



What is Tuberculosis?



Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by germs called bacteria. TB usually **affects the lungs**, but it can also affect other parts of the body, such as the brain, kidneys or spine. TB kills more people than any other single infectious disease agent in the world.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2015:

1.8 MILLION
PEOPLE DIED FROM TB

10.4 MILLION
PEOPLE ESTIMATED TO HAVE
FALLEN ILL WITH TB

26%
OF THE WORLD'S TB CASES
WERE IN THE **AFRICAN REGION**



How is TB spread?

TB bacteria are spread through the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat **coughs, sneezes, laughs, or sings**. People nearby may breathe in the TB bacteria and become infected.



What is the difference between **LATENT TB** infection and **ACTIVE TB** disease?



People can be infected with the germ that causes TB, **but not feel sick**. This is called **latent TB infection**. People with latent TB **don't spread TB germs**. About 1 in 3 people in the world (2 billion people) has latent TB.



When a person with TB germs **becomes sick**, it's known as active **TB disease**. This happens to about 1 in 10 people with latent TB, but more often for people who have other health risks, such as HIV or diabetes. Latent TB can become active TB disease right away or years later. Once people have active TB disease, they **start to feel sick and can spread TB germs to others**.



What is a vaccine?

A vaccine is usually given as a shot to **help prevent or fight a disease**. Vaccines work by teaching the body how to stop germs, like the TB bacteria, from making people sick. Vaccines are usually given to healthy people who might be exposed to the germ in the future.



How are places for conducting clinical trials chosen?

The very first clinical trials are usually held in the country where the vaccine was first discovered. After a vaccine is first tested for safety, it needs to be tested in countries where the disease is common to see if it prevents disease in the **people who need it most**. For TB vaccine trials, this needs to be a community with high rates of TB.



Is a TB vaccine available yet?

1921

Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) has been used since 1921 but has not stopped TB.



It is only **moderately effective** at preventing severe TB in infants and young children, and is not usually effective in protecting high-risk adults and teenagers from getting and spreading TB of the lungs. To protect our communities, we need a better TB vaccine.



1 in 10

PEOPLE WITH LATENT TB INFECTION WHO DON'T RECEIVE TREATMENT WILL DEVELOP TB DISEASE



480 000

PEOPLE ESTIMATED TO HAVE DEVELOPED MULTIDRUG RESISTANT TB (WHO, 2015)



A LEADING CAUSE

OF DEATH FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES

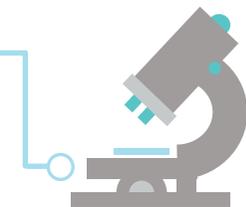


When will a new vaccine be available?

A new vaccine will be available as soon as we find one that is **EFFECTIVE** and **SAFE**.



We cannot tell exactly when a new TB vaccine will be available. Right now, we are running many clinical trials and our goal is to have a **new vaccine ready in the next 10 to 15 years**.



Why is it important for communities to support TB Vaccine development?



TB causes a great deal of suffering and some forms of TB (**drug resistant TB**) are hard to cure with current medicine.

A new vaccine is expected to protect against all types of TB.

Clinical trials are helping to create a new TB vaccine that will be used to keep everyone safe and healthy.

TB clinical trials are only possible with cooperation, participation and support from the community.