

The Difference Between Latent TB Infection and Active TB Disease

A Person With Latent TB Infection	A Person With Active TB Disease
Does not feel sick	Feels sick
Has no symptoms	<p>Has symptoms that may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bad cough that lasts 3 weeks or longer • Pain in the chest • Coughing up blood or sputum • Weakness or fatigue • Weight loss • No appetite • Chills • Fever • Sweating at night
Cannot spread TB to others	May spread TB to others
Usually has a positive skin test or IGRA blood test	Usually has a positive skin test or IGRA blood test
Has a normal chest x-ray and sputum test	May have an abnormal chest x-ray and/or positive sputum smear or culture

Reference:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The Difference Between Latent TB Infection and TB Disease". November 2011. <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/factsheets/general/lbtbiandactivetb.pdf> (accessed April 8, 2015).