

Unit 2: Etiology

Activity 3: Assessing the Risks for TB Transmission

1. Which of the following conditions help the spread of tuberculosis? Check all that apply.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Crowded living conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor nutrition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to health care | <input type="checkbox"/> Darkness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poorly ventilated areas | <input type="checkbox"/> HIV & AIDS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunshine | <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccinations |

2. For each of the following scenarios underline the factors that place the main character at risk of TB infection, and suggest changes that could be made to reduce their risk. Consider both changes made by individuals and that might be made by society.

- a) Bernard moved to the city to find work as a shift-worker. He works ten hour days to save money to send back to his family in the country so that they can afford to keep their farm. It is cheapest for Bernard to share a two-room apartment with five other men, who work different shifts and take turns sleeping in one of the two beds. One of Bernard's roommates announced yesterday that a co-worker was recently diagnosed with TB.

- b) Perdita lives in Peru with her mother, father, grandmother, uncle, and three siblings. Her father was diagnosed with TB six months ago. He began taking antibiotics, but the trip to the clinic to take his medicine was causing him to miss too much time at work so he stopped taking his pills.

c) Simon is homeless in Philadelphia. When it is cold outside he stays at shelters, but doesn't like them because there are so many men snoring in one room and he prefers to see the open sky at night. He sometimes meets friends on a street corner to pass around a bottle of alcohol or to share a joint to kill time and have some fun.

d) Felicia works in a textile factory. Fifty women work machines on her floor, and only four small windows provide fresh air.

e) Peter was recently diagnosed with HIV. It takes him four hours to travel to the closest medical clinic, and often they are out of medicine when he gets there.

f) Mary's sister, who lives in another town, was just diagnosed with TB. Mary suspects that her cough might mean she also has the disease, but she is afraid that her neighbours and friends will stop visiting her if she does have TB so she avoids going to the doctor.

3. a) What do you think governments can do better or differently to help stop the spread of tuberculosis?