

## Children with Active Tuberculosis

Your child has been found to have tuberculosis (TB) disease. This means that the TB germ is growing in your child's body.

### Where did your child get TB?

Children who have TB disease got it from another person with TB disease. It is critical the source of your child's TB be found as soon as possible to prevent others from getting sick by completing a contact investigation. The public health nurse will determine which contacts need to be evaluated for TB in the contact investigation.

State law requires that all cases of TB be reported to the State health department. The county health department is required to follow up on TB to prevent the spread of disease.

### Important:

If your child does not take medications as prescribed, the germ can become resistant to the medication and the treatment can fail. This is why we monitor medications and appointments.

Tell the public health nurse if your child is taking any other medication due to side effects and possible drug interactions. For more information on drug interactions and side effects see medication handouts.

### Directly Observed Therapy (DOT):

For children with TB, the county health department staff will observe the parent giving TB medications to their child, this is called DOT. The use of DOT has been proven to help patients finish their TB medications without delay or problems.

You are required to meet with the DOT provider at the agreed upon place and time. You must cooperate and work closely with the health department who have an obligation to help your child recover from TB.

### To give the medicines:

If your child cannot swallow a pill whole:

- Crush pills or open capsules.
- Put the contents into a small amount of something sweet and thick, such as chocolate pudding, applesauce, baby food, jam or anything that your child likes.
- Give medications all at once and about the same time every day.

**Plan for follow-up:** We will follow-up with your child regularly, until the disease is cured. This will require that we see your child in the health department on a monthly basis for evaluation.