

Tuberculosis (TB)

Details

Last Updated: Monday, 06 February 2017 13:58

Tuberculosis (TB)

Details

Last Updated: Wednesday, 7th December 2016 15.44

June 2004

As visitors to refugees and asylum seekers we should be alert to the possibility of being exposed to TB.

Important facts

- TB is easy to diagnose with an X-ray.
- TB can be treated effectively with medication.
- People with latent (i.e not active) TB are not infectious and cannot spread TB infection to others. Overall, without treatment, about 5-10% of infected persons will develop TB disease at some point in their lives. About half of those people who develop TB will do so within the first two years of becoming infected.
- Someone who is coughing and who has active TB is likely to be infectious if they are not taking medication or if they have very recently started medication.
- Most people who get infected with TB have spent more than 8 hours in close day-to-day contact with an infectious person.
- Someone who has been diagnosed with active TB of their lungs and has had 3 negative sputum samples sent to the laboratory is no longer deemed infectious and can lead a normal life. However it is important to continue taking the medication for the prescribed length of time or the TB may recur in a resistant form.

Precautions

- 1.The Group will not take referrals of anyone known to have active pulmonary TB until they have been deemed un-infectious.
- 2.If a client or a visitor develops a persistent cough or chest infection, he or she should be encouraged to see a doctor and to get a chest

Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group *Working with asylum seekers and refugees*
Patrons: Miriam Margolyes OBE, John Pilkington, Dr Shirley Firth **Registered charity:** 1103093

SWVG P O Box 1615 Southampton, SO17 3WF

Email: admin@swvg-refugees.org.uk **Telephone:** 0750 317 6350 **Web:** www.swvg-refugees.org.uk



X-ray.

3.If you are concerned about your current personal susceptibility to infection, you may wish to discuss the advisability of visiting a particular client with the Coordinator.

Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group *Working with asylum seekers and refugees*
Patrons: Miriam Margolyes OBE, John Pilkington, Dr Shirley Firth **Registered charity:** 1103093

SWVG P O Box 1615 Southampton, SO17 3WF

Email: admin@swvg-refugees.org.uk **Telephone:** 0750 317 6350 **Web:** www.swvg-refugees.org.uk