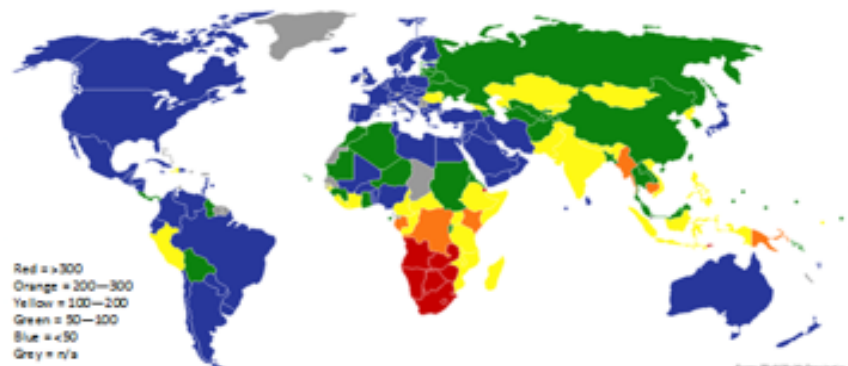
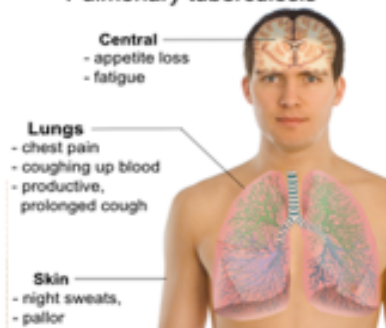


TUBERCULOSIS



World map showing reported cases of tuberculosis per 100,000 citizens. Red = >300, orange = 200—300, yellow = 100—200, green = 50—100, blue = <50 and grey = n/a.

Main symptoms of Pulmonary tuberculosis



Main sites of Extrapulmonary tuberculosis



Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by a small bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The most common form of the disease is when it damages the lungs, but it can affect many parts of the body, when it is called extra-pulmonary disease. TB is highly infectious and is usually caught by breathing in bacteria from the air. People with untreated disease in their lungs or throat expel the bacteria as small droplets when they cough, sneeze or even during talking. These tiny droplets can remain suspended in the air for long enough to be inhaled by other people in the vicinity.

When the disease becomes active, 75% of the cases are pulmonary TB. In the other 25% of active cases, the infection moves from the lungs, causing other kinds of TB, collectively denoted extra-pulmonary tuberculosis.

People with damaged immune systems have a much higher risk of developing TB disease. TB is the leading cause of illness and death in people living with HIV. HIV/AIDS and TB are so closely connected that the term "co-epidemic" or "dual-epidemic" is often used to describe their relationship.

Treatment for TB uses antibiotics to kill the bacteria. The two drugs most commonly used are **rifampicin** and **isoniazid**. However, instead of the short course of antibiotics typically used to cure other bacterial infections, TB requires much longer periods of treatment (around 6 to 12 months) to entirely eliminate mycobacteria from the body.