

Welcome

to the

Long Term Care RISE

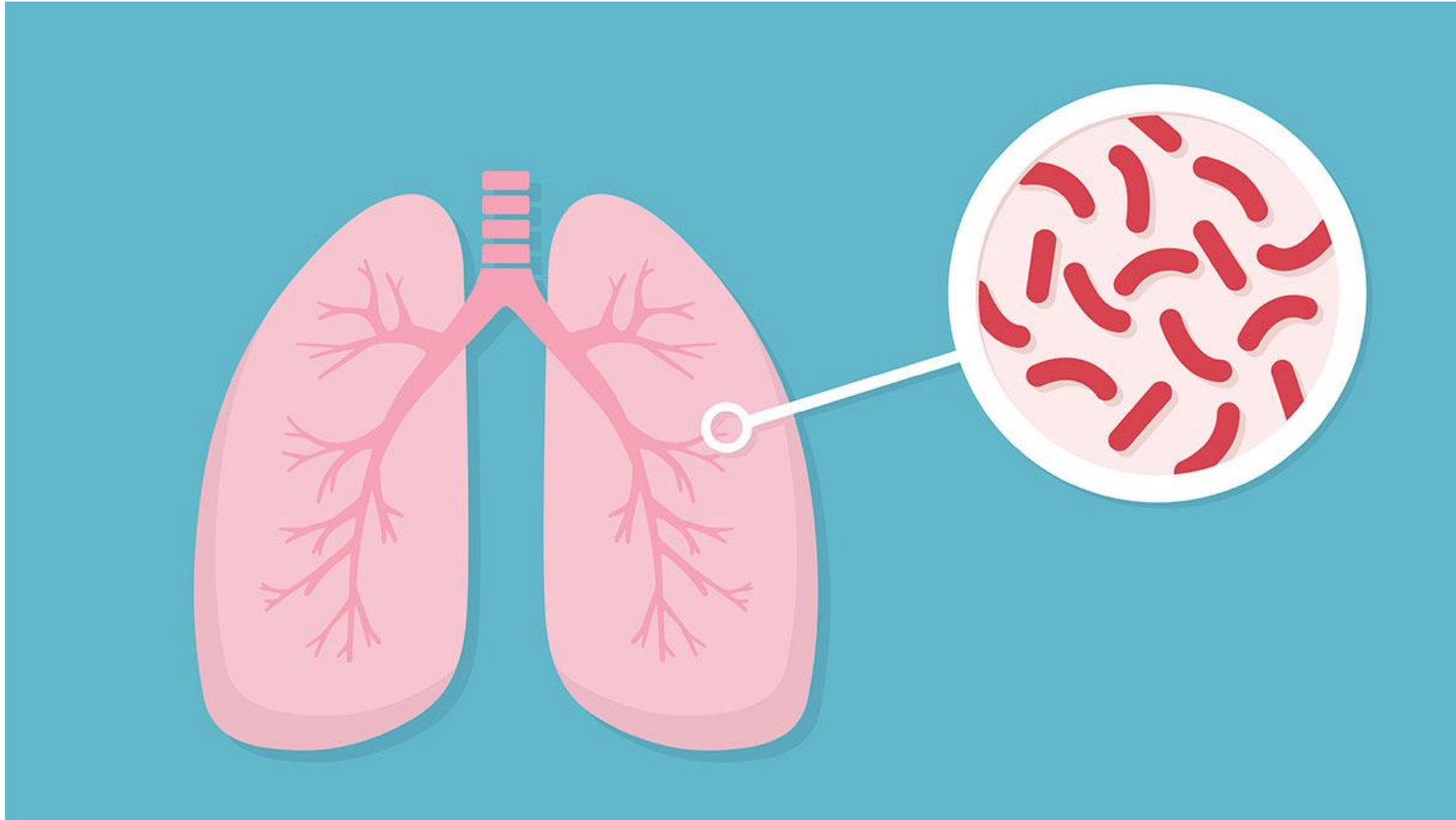
 Penn Medicine |  TEMPLE HEALTH

Session on

Tuberculosis Basics



What can you tell me about TB?



How is Tuberculosis Spread?

- Tuberculosis is spread through the air when an infected person coughs or breathes out infected particles, and another person inhales the particles.
- A person cannot get TB from surfaces or touching others.
- A person who is exposed to TB cannot spread it right away.
 1. The exposed person has to breathe in the TB bacteria
 2. Then, the exposed person has to develop the infection
 3. Finally, the bacterial multiplies and becomes active disease
 - Only after the disease is active, can that person infect others

Signs and Symptoms of TB



Cough that lasts 3 or more weeks



Fatigue or weakness



Chills or fever



Coughing up blood



Loss of appetite



Night Sweats

Who Is Most At Risk for TB?

- ▶ Persons with medical conditions that weaken the immune system
- ▶ Persons who have recently lived in a country with high levels of TB
- ▶ Persons who work or reside in congregate care and communal living settings
 - The CDC and many local health agencies recommend Tuberculosis screening and testing of health care personnel as part of a TB infection control plan.

How should TB be monitored at work?

- ▶ All employees should be screened for TB upon hire
- ▶ Annual TB testing is not recommended unless there is a known exposure or ongoing transmission
- ▶ Annual education should include:
 - TB risk factors
 - Signs and symptoms of TB disease
 - TB infection control policies and procedures

How can I have a good TB infection control plan?

- ▶ If possible, assign someone the responsibility for TB infection control
- ▶ Develop a written TB infection control plan
- ▶ Ensure availability of a lab for testing and reporting results
- ▶ Provide education, training and counseling for health care personnel
- ▶ Remind patients and staff to use proper cough etiquette



