

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health staff will:

- Ensure you see a doctor for treatment of your tuberculosis (TB)
- Ensure you attend all your medical appointments and tests
- Ensure required medical tests are done
- Supply TB medicines at no cost
- Help you take your TB medicine correctly, until your treatment is completed
- Watch for side-effects of your TB medicine
- Teach you and your family about TB and TB medicine
- Get regular reports from your doctor about your TB treatment
- Ensure you isolate yourself to protect others from your TB germs (if you have contagious TB)
- Arrange for people to get tested if they have spent a lot of time around you while you were getting sick with TB (called TB contact investigation)

Your doctor or nurse must notify the Medical Officer of Health at the Public Health department if you:

- Refuse to take your TB medicine properly
- Miss appointments without a good reason
- Miss medical tests without a good reason
- Do not isolate yourself when you are contagious
- Refuse to provide information about the people you spent time with while you were contagious

If this happens, you may be endangering the health of others. You may be ordered to take your TB medicine and follow the instructions of the doctor and Public Health staff. If necessary, this may include going into the hospital in order to protect the public.