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24 MARCH: WORLD TB DAY

WHAT IS TB?

- It is an infectious but CURABLE airborne disease caused by a germ which attacks and damages the lungs.
- It is passed easily to others through coughing or sneezing.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

- Persistent coughing, night sweats, tiredness, weight loss.

- Coughing up blood or sputum.



WHEN SHOULD YOU BE TESTED?

- If you think that you might have TB.
- If you have spent significant time with a person who has TB, or is suspected to have TB.

HOW IS TB TREATED?

- Treatment is free at government clinics
- TB is covered by medical aids under PMB treatment
- The full course of treatment must be followed and completed
- The medication can have side-effects which could include nausea, rashes and vomiting.
- Multi-drug resistant TB is harder to treat, and uses different medication.



TB FACTS

- TB is **NOT** hereditary.
- TB is **NOT** easily contracted.
- TB **CAN** affect any organ.
- TB **IS** curable.
- TB treatment **MUST** be completed.

An infographic with an orange background. On the left is a blue lightbulb icon with rays emanating from it. On the right is a blue silhouette of a person wearing a white face mask. In the center, the text reads: 'Did you know? The WESTERN CAPE has the fourth highest number of new TB infections in South Africa (739.1 cases per 100 000). February 2015'.

Did you know?

The **WESTERN CAPE** has the fourth highest number of new TB infections in South Africa (739.1 cases per 100 000). February 2015.