What is Tuberculosis (TB)?
Tuberculosis (TB) is a bacterial infection that can affect almost any part of the body but is most common in the lungs - a form called pulmonary tuberculosis. It is well controlled in Queensland. However, TB has not been eradicated from any place in the world, so numbers of new cases do occur. Tuberculosis can be a very serious disease if it is not diagnosed and treated properly. Nowadays, it can be cured by medications if taken as prescribed by your doctor.

How is TB spread?
TB is spread by droplets from an infected person when they cough, sneeze, laugh or speak.

Is there a vaccination for TB?
The vaccination is known as BCG. It is called BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Geurin) after the two people who discovered the vaccine. The BCG vaccination is free of charge for those eligible.

Who needs the vaccination?
Not all children require the BCG vaccination, but it is recommended for the following populations:
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island neonates living in regions of high TB incidence
- Children aged less than five years who will live in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities for a period of three months or more. In situations where the intended length of stay is less than three months but the risk of exposure to TB may be high, the need for BCG vaccination should be assessed in consultation with an experienced TB clinician.
- Neonates born to parents with leprosy or a family history of leprosy
- Children aged less than five years who will be travelling to high TB incidence countries* for a period of three months or more. In situations where the intended length of stay is less than three months but the risk of exposure to TB may be high, the need for BCG vaccination should be assessed in consultation with an experienced TB clinician.

* A list of countries with a high risk of TB is available at www.health.qld.gov.au/chrisp/tuberculosis/high_risk_index.asp

Where do I go to get the vaccination?
Vaccinations are given in a Tuberculosis Control Unit at one of the locations listed below. Your obstetrician or registered nurse at the hospital will help you decide if your baby requires the BCG vaccination. The maternity unit will usually inform the local TB Control Unit, who will contact you after your baby is born with an appointment to go to one of the BCG clinics. If you have not heard from a clinic within one month after your baby's birth, or if you have any questions about the BCG, please contact your nearest unit.

Further Information

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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
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<td>3176 4141</td>
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