

TB

World Tuberculosis Day on March 24, 2022

Tuberculosis (TB) is a highly contagious infectious disease that primarily involves the lungs. It particularly affects people in Southeast Asia, Africa, the Western Pacific region, and the Eastern Mediterranean and is favored by poverty, malnutrition and immune deficiency [1].

On March 24, 1882, the German physician, microbiologist and hygienist Robert Koch first described the tuberculosis bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) [1].

More TB deaths in 2020 than in previous years



- TB deaths rose again for the first time – from around 1.4 million in 2019 to around **1.5 million deaths** in 2020 [1]
- This means that around **three people** die **every minute** as a result of TB [1]
- The WHO cites the pandemic-related interruption in healthcare as the main reason for the increase
- If detected in time, **85 %** of all patients could be successfully treated with medication



How can transmission be prevented?

- Since TB is mainly transmitted by droplets and aerosols, FFP2 masks offer protection against infection [2,3].
- Hand disinfection of sick people and carers – even when using gloves – is of great importance to reduce the spread of bacterial respiratory secretions [2,3].



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Research for
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Sources:

1. World Health Organization. Global Tuberculosis Report 2021.
2. World Health Organization. WHO guidelines on tuberculosis infection prevention and control: 2019 update.
3. Ziegler R, et al. [Tuberculosis infection control – recommendations of the DZK]. Pneumologie 2012; 66: 269–282.