Tuberculosis, or TB, is a disease caused by bacteria called Mycobacterium tuberculosis. The bacteria usually attack the lungs (pulmonary TB), but can attack any part of the body (non-pulmonary TB). TB can be spread when a person with active TB disease spreads bacteria into the air by coughing or sneezing. People with TB disease can be treated and cured if they seek medical help for their symptoms.

Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick. People with latent TB infection do not feel sick, do not have any symptoms, and cannot spread TB. People who have latent TB infection can take medicine so they will never develop active TB.

There were 49 patients diagnosed with TB in Wisconsin in 2018. Most of these patients were exposed to TB outside of the U.S. or had close contact to someone with active TB disease.

**Tuberculosis Cases, Wisconsin 2009-2018**

- **Case average**: Wisconsin has had an average of 57 TB cases per year during the past 10 years.
- **Multi-drug resistance**: Wisconsin’s rate of multi-drug resistant TB is one of the highest in the U.S. Wisconsin treated 20 patients with MDR-TB in the past 10 years.
- **Deaths**: In 2018, seven people died from TB or complications of the disease.