



June 2026

Happy June! I hope many of you will be reading this edition of the TB Wire from the National TB Conference in Palm Springs! It is a great way to connect with folks who can talk TB all day long ;) We also have a special feature this month (after the usual TB updates) from coordinating board member [David Lewinsohn, MD, PHD](#) of Oregon Health & Science University on the latest in TB vaccine development, a critical step in our journey to [#EndTB!](#)

- Cynthia Tschampl, PhD, Immediate Past Chair



DC UPDATE

FY27 appropriations continues: House and Senate members have all submitted their FY27 appropriations priorities, and some initial draft bills have come out of House subcommittees. We do not know where either House or Senate will land yet in terms of the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, which contains the dollars for the CDC. Please ask your Representative in the House plus your two Senators to ask their Leadership to pass \$225 million for CDC's TB programs for FY27. The Capitol Switchboard is **1-202-224-3121**.

Sample script: As your constituent and a public health advocate, I urge you to speak out in favor of strong funding for the CDC's TB research and elimination activities. Since TB anywhere is TB everywhere, we cannot afford to risk further increased rates of transmission or drug resistance. Four years of increased cases, drug price increases, and staff burnout all require more resources. [Add a

sentence about why you care.] Will your boss talk to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee in support of \$225 million for FY27 for CDC's domestic TB programs? I look forward to hearing a response. [Leave phone number and email to receive a response.]

Bonus points if you write us at leadership@stoptbusa.org and tell us how your calls/emails went!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The TB Vaccine Accelerator Council meets for the fourth time

The WHO TB Vaccine Accelerator Council convened its fourth meeting in May 2026, bringing together global leaders, researchers, and partners to advance the development, financing, and equitable access of new TB vaccines. Discussions focused on accelerating vaccine research and ensuring countries are prepared for rapid implementation once new vaccines become available.

Congratulations to WeAreTB for being selected as a winner of the [2026 Project for Awesome!](#) Out of more than 1.3 million votes cast, WeAreTB was one of just 34 organizations chosen by the community. This recognition serves as a powerful reminder that advocacy is effective. Every social media share, petition signature, comment, and conversation helps amplify the voices of people affected by TB and drives meaningful change. Small actions add up to a big impact.

TB Alliance Creator Collective Applications Open

TB Alliance is seeking six content creators, science communicators, advocates, and storytellers to join its inaugural Creator Collective and attend the 2026 Union World Conference on Lung Health in Rio de Janeiro. Selected participants will receive travel support, a \$1,000 stipend, and unique access to global TB experts and advocates to create engaging, evidence-based content that raises awareness about tuberculosis. **Applications are open through July 6, 2026.**

TEA Mini-Grant Program Applications Open

The Tuberculosis Elimination Alliance (TEA) is now accepting applications for its 2026–2027 Mini-Grant Program, offering funding to organizations serving communities at increased risk for TB. Funding will support community engagement, education, provider outreach, and quality improvement initiatives

aimed at increasing awareness, testing, treatment, and reducing stigma surrounding LTBI and TB. **Applications are due July 24, 2026**

#FacesOfTB

Led by our Media Work Group, **#FacesOfTB** is a new storytelling campaign designed to highlight the full breadth of people impacted by TB, and by recent USAID cuts. This includes advocates, survivors, care partners, pharmacists, clinicians, researchers, non-medical workers, journalists, and others whose work or lives intersect with TB.

We encourage you to submit your story (and any questions) using the [form](#)!



TB RESOURCES & REPORTS

The WHO global tuberculosis report 2025: Drug-resistant TB

The WHO Global Tuberculosis Report highlights the ongoing burden of drug-resistant TB worldwide, emphasizing trends in incidence, gaps in diagnosis and treatment, and geographic distribution.

An Action Guide for Communicators at Public Health Agencies

Visit the PHCC Action Guide, which provides practical, peer-informed strategies and tools to help public health teams strengthen communication, assess challenges, and improve messaging effectiveness.

2025 Provisional TB Data Report Release

Global TB Report: “Progress is Possible: We Know What Works, Let’s Scale It”

Compendium of data and evidence-related tools for use in tuberculosis planning and programming

TB IN THE NEWS

TB INCIDENCE REPORTS:

TB outbreak at SF high school affects nearly 1 in 5, further testing underway

Nearly 1 in 5 students and staff at San Francisco's Archbishop Riordan High School have tested positive for TB since an outbreak began in November 2025. However, the majority of cases are latent and not contagious. A new round of testing is underway, with transmission showing signs of slowing.

TB ARTICLES:

Large TB outbreaks in the United States decline slightly in recent years, CDC reports

A CDC report found 50 large TB outbreaks across 23 US states from 2017–2023, slightly down from the prior period, with cases disproportionately affecting US-born individuals experiencing homelessness, incarceration, or substance use, mostly spreading through family and social networks.

LeadingAge South Carolina Celebrates Historic Workforce Victory with Passage of Senate Bill 819

LeadingAge South Carolina celebrated the passage of Senate Bill 819, legislation that modernizes tuberculosis screening requirements for new employees in nursing homes and residential care facilities.

Long a dream, it's now real: a fast and accurate TB test that doesn't need phlegm

A new TB test, which uses a tongue swab, delivers accurate results in under 30 minutes for just \$3–4, a significant improvement over the 150-year-old phlegm-and-microscope method that misses half of all cases.

Eliminating undernutrition could prevent 2.3 mn TB cases globally

A new modeling study in The Lancet Global Health found that eliminating undernutrition could prevent up to 2.3 million TB cases annually, nearly a quarter of all adult infections worldwide.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Superior protection against tuberculosis using heterologous mRNA nanoadjuvant vaccines

A new mRNA vaccine (QTAP-R) paired with the existing BCG vaccine showed significantly stronger protection against TB in mice, positioning it as a promising next-generation candidate.

Shorter AND safer: A study to find the safest and shortest treatment to prevent TB

McGill researchers are testing ultra-short TB preventive treatment regimens, some as brief as one month, to find a safer and more tolerable alternative that people will actually complete.

Differences in tuberculosis prevalence by sex in low- and middle-income countries over 1993–2025

A recent modeling study estimated that approximately 1.7 billion people worldwide are living with LTBI, highlighting the enormous reservoir of infection that continues to fuel the global TB epidemic.

Bridging the gaps: Enhancing maternal and child health by improving TB detection and prevention

Experts emphasize that integrating TB screening and prevention into routine maternal and pediatric care is essential to improving outcomes and saving lives.

Characteristics of Plausible Source Cases Responsible for Recent *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Transmission, United States, 2018–2022

EVENTS, CONFERENCES & COURSES

Conferences:

National TB Conference, NTCA

June 8-12, 2026 | Palm Springs, CA | In person

World Conference on Lung Health, The Union

November 17-20, 2026 | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | In person

Courses:

Core Concepts of TB Epidemiology for Public Health Practice

Management of Child and Adolescent Tuberculosis and Resources for Trainers (The Union online)

When TB is the Least of Their Worries: Mini-Course Series

TB 101 for Health Care Workers Training (CDC)

TB SPECIAL REPORT

TB Vaccines - The Glass Half Full!

It has been more than 100 years since the introduction of BCG, the most commonly given vaccine in the world. While BCG is effective in preventing some of the severe childhood manifestations of TB, the TB epidemic continues unabated. Two vaccines have entered late-stage development. The first, he M72/AS01E is a subunit vaccine, and is currently in a Phase 3 clinical trial, having fully enrolled 20,000 participants across Africa and Indonesia. If successful, this vaccine could be licensed by 2030. The second is MTBVAC, a live attenuated vaccine. This vaccine is currently being evaluated for efficacy in a large-scale Phase 2b efficacy trial to prevent TB disease in adolescents and adults with latent TB infection across several African nations, as well as a Phase 3 in Newborns.

This progress is both exciting and daunting in that a vaccine for TB will require ambitious multinational funding, and that an important target population will be adults and adolescents. In January 2023, the WHO's Director-General established a TB vaccine accelerator Council to facilitate the development, testing,

authorization, and use of new TB vaccines, drawing on lessons learned from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council is focused on:

- Identifying needs for, and types of innovative sustainable financial solutions, as well as partnerships between the public, private and philanthropic sectors that can expedite the translation of science into TB vaccines, and ensure their equitable access once available.
- Identifying market solutions to incentivize TB vaccine development, and to ensure that the R&D ecosystem is positioned to rapidly manufacture and distribute vaccines equitably and at scale, once they are available.
- Advocating with decision makers in the public, private, philanthropy and other relevant sectors to strengthen commitment and concerted action to develop and expand access to novel effective TB vaccines, including through political platforms such as the African Union, ASEAN, BRICS, G20, G7 and others.

The TB Vaccine Accelerator Forum, hosted by WHO in Geneva from 27-28 April, brought together global, regional and country-level health leaders, funders, vaccine developers, TB advocates and other partners to reinforce the public health need for and potential impact of this new class of TB vaccines and explore further collaboration. Participants reviewed activities underway through the TB Vaccine Accelerator working groups and other initiatives.

The Forum focused on:

- Launch of country preparedness community of practice
- Status of TB vaccine development and preparation for global policy
- Finance and access priorities

Following this meeting, the Council met on 19 May, and focused on:

- Elevating domestic financing as a national priority and strengthening country ownership, preparedness, advocacy, and community partnerships to accelerate and ensure availability and access to new TB vaccines for adults and adolescents to end tuberculosis.

- David Lewinsohn, MD, PhD, Stop TB USA Coordinating Board Member

Stop TB USA: Where we unite to #EndTB!

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Donate today! <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/stop-tb-usa>

Stop TB USA

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