

# TB and COVID-19

California healthcare providers have reported

- delays in diagnosis and treatment of TB disease
- and
- patients having concurrent TB disease & COVID19

**COVID-19 and TB disease may have overlapping features:** both have serious consequences in the elderly and immunocompromised and easily spread in congregate settings.

Consider TB disease as a cause of respiratory illness – even in those who test positive for COVID-19 – when TB risks, signs, symptoms or imaging findings below are present

## ➔ Risks for TB disease

- Lived outside the United States
- Immunocompromised
- Close contact to someone with TB disease

## ➔ Signs/symptoms more consistent with TB

- Persistent cough for  $\geq 3$  weeks
- Weight loss
- Hemoptysis



Multilobar infiltrates with multiple cavitations in a person with TB disease  
Source: CDCage Library

## ➔ Imaging findings of TB disease & COVID-19

### More consistent with TB disease

- Upper lobe infiltrates
- Miliary, nodular, or cavitary lesions
- Lymphadenopathy (children and immunocompromised)
- Pleural effusions

### More consistent with COVID-19

- Ground-glass opacities
- Peripheral and posterior lung segment predominance
- Absence of pleural effusions and lymphadenopathy

## If you suspect TB disease

- Collect 3 sputum samples 8 hours apart for AFB smear, mycobacterial culture, and nucleic acid amplification testing (e.g. Xpert MTB)
- Contact: CONTRA COSTA PUBLIC HEALTH TB CONTROL AT 925-313-6740 to report suspected case and ensure effective treatment and timely contact evaluation