

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

MOST OF US are not concerned about getting tuberculosis today, though we likely had family members generations ago who died from it. The disease is not very common in the United States anymore, and if we were to need treatment, most of us would have access to it. But what about those without health insurance or reliable transportation?

Where can we find successful models that lead to increased access to affordable healthcare?

In many parts of the world, families struggle to pay for medical treatment, find transportation to medical facilities, and gain access to the kinds of food their bodies need. We know how to treat tuberculosis and how to slow its continued impact, but those resources have not reached everyone. How can we improve our systems—locally, nationally, and internationally?

“We cannot address TB only with vaccines and medications... We must address the root cause of tuberculosis, which is injustice. In a world where everyone can eat, and access healthcare, and be treated humanely, tuberculosis has no chance.”

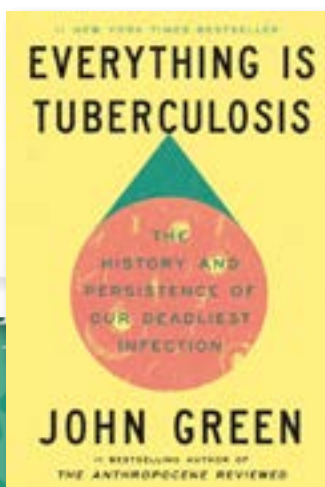


World TB Day [Photograph], From <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-tb-day/2026>

What kind of technological advancements might help improve or solve some of the problems?

“TB in the 21st century is not really caused by a bacteria that we know how to kill. TB in the 21st century is really caused by those social determinants of health, which at their core are about human-built systems for extracting and allocating resources.”

In what ways can a community help support its sick members?



USA COMMON READ/COMMON WORLD
2026/2027 BOOK SELECTION:

EVERYTHING IS TUBERCULOSIS