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LUCKNOW  
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{ WORLD TB DAY TODAY }

## Patient's family must take precaution to avoid cross-infection: Doc

**LUCKNOW:** Precaution and medication can ensure none in the family of a tuberculosis patient catches the infection, said Dr Rajendra Prasad, HoD pulmonary medicine at Era's Lucknow Medical College and former director, Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, New Delhi.

"With regular medication, TB bacteria becomes weak in two to three weeks after which the patient won't infect any other person. Till then, the family members need to take precautions," said Dr Prasad.

"Family members, particularly those with weak immunity, those who have had some illness in recent past and people above 60 years of age are vulnerable to cross-infection," said Dr Abhishek Shukla, secretary general, Association of International Doctors. He said, patients should use a mask inside house also at least for two weeks while family members can go for pre-

ventive medication.

Dr Surya Kant, HoD, pulmonary medicine at the King George's Medical University said, "Every year, 5 lakh people die due to TB infection and this happens as TB makes the immunity weak and other ailments too grip the patients including diabetes."

### **A patient who is now TB champion!**

A 37-year-old man was diagnosed with extensively-drug resistant TB or XDR-TB five years ago but today he has been given tag of TB champion for Chandauli district, said Dr Surya Kant. Sharing the case Dr Surya Kant said it took 65 months for the man to recover fully though his family had lost all hope as he was suffering from eight other diseases apart from TB. "Today he is helping other TB patients," said Dr Surya Kant. **HTC**