



Technical Bulletin



Date: August 8, 2019

Topic: Tuberculin Testing Supply Shortage and Temporary Extension of Annual TB Screening for Patients/Residents/Clients/Inmates

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To: All Nevada Public Health Authorities, Health Care Facilities, Facilities for the Dependent, Homes for Individual Residential Care, Outpatient Facilities, Correctional Facilities

Current Situation: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is anticipating a nationwide shortage of the tuberculin skin testing (TST), Aplisol®. The timeframe is subject to change due to product demand but estimates are between 3 to 10 months starting in November 2019.

Summary: On June 6, 2019, the CDC Health Alert Network issued a Health Advisory (HAN-00420) regarding the nationwide shortage of the TST antigen and recommendations for patient care and public health practice. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) anticipates temporary TB testing will impact facilities required to perform annual testing of patients, clients, residents, or inmates per Nevada Administrative Codes, [NAC 441A](#) and [NAC 449](#). The DPBH recommends the following TB screening and annual testing activities during the impacted period of August 2019 through August 2020, or until the shortage is declared resolved.

Ineligible for Extension/Must Be Screened for TB with TB Test *(no alteration to existing Nevada regulations)*

- **All New Patients/Residents/Clients/Inmates:**
Continued initial TB screening activities upon initial placement/intake using Interferon Gamma Releasing Assay (IGRA) blood tests, 2-step TST, or 1-step TST if a documented negative TST result 365 days prior to placement/intake.
- **Post exposure/individuals identified as contacts of persons with confirmed or suspected TB disease:**
TB testing immediately and 8-10 weeks after the last exposure per CDC recommendations.¹

Extension Permissible for Annual TB Testing

- **Facility Low-risk TB designation:**
Per NAC 441A.380, annual testing within the facility is not required for patients/residents if the facility's medical director, or a designee thereof, determines annually the facility to be a low-risk facility following CDC recommendations.²
- **Patients/Residents/Clients/Inmates with documented previous TB test:**
Consider converting to IGRA TB testing. If the patient/resident/client/inmate has been tested in your facility within the past 365 days and has a documented negative TB test result, the individual is eligible to temporarily extend annual TB testing until August 8, 2020, or until the TST supply shortage is resolved. Continuing annual TB testing with certain individuals may be determined by the medical provider. Individuals with a documented past positive TB test and documented normal chest X-ray should continue with the annual signs and symptoms questionnaire.

¹ CDC. *Guidelines for the Investigation of Contacts of Persons with Infectious Tuberculosis*. MMWR 2005;54(RR-15): [1-54].

² CDC. *Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Health-Care Settings*. MMWR 2005;54(RR-17): [1-141].

For More Information:

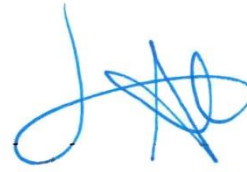
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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention TB website: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/>

Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health: <http://dpbh.nv.gov/>

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Lisa Sherych, Administrator
Division of Public and Behavioral Health

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ihsan Azzam".

Ihsan Azzam, Ph.D., M.D.
Chief Medical Officer