

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor
MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary
MARK T. BENTON • Assistant Secretary for Public Health
Division of Public Health

Jason Stout, MD, MHS
Box 102359
Duke University Medical
Center
Durham, NC 27710

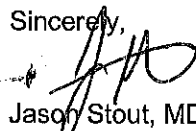
December 2, 2019

To: Local Health Department TB Programs, Hospital Infection Control Practitioners
From: Jason Stout, MD, MHS, TB Controller/Medical Director
Re: Tuberculin Shortage

We have been informed that the shortage of Aplisol® (PPD) has resolved as of November 2019. This means that tuberculin skin testing may resume for all approved indications without restriction, and persons for whom required tuberculin skin testing was previously deferred may now be tested. Some important points regarding tuberculin skin testing follow:

- Routine tuberculin skin testing is not recommended for persons at low risk of tuberculosis infection (i.e. who have no epidemiologic risk for tuberculosis and do not have medical conditions that place them at high risk for tuberculosis reactivation).
- When screening for latent tuberculosis is indicated, interferon gamma release assays (IGRAs, T-SPOT.TB® or QuantiFERON Gold Plus) are the preferred tests for latent tuberculosis screening of most persons ages 2 years and older.
- Annual screening for latent tuberculosis infection (with a tuberculin skin test or IGRA) is not indicated for healthcare workers in most settings.

Sincerely,


Jason Stout, MD, MHS
Professor of Medicine
Duke University Medical Center
Medical Director, North Carolina Tuberculosis Program
Phone (919) 668-0826

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH; EPI/CD/TB CONTROL

LOCATION: 1200 Front Street Suite 103, Raleigh, NC 27609
MAILING ADDRESS: 1905 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1905
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-755-3184 • FAX: 919-733-0084

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER