

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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TO: Healthcare providers/Health Departments
FROM: Lynn Sosa, MD
Deputy State Epidemiologist
DATE: May 30, 2014
SUBJECT: Update on isoniazid and tuberculin skin test antigen availability

This letter is an update to health care providers and health departments on the current availability of isoniazid and purified protein derivative solutions used for tuberculin skin testing (TST) (Tubersol) from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program.

There are currently no issues in obtaining isoniazid. The current DPH supply is adequate to respond fully to all requests. To obtain isoniazid for the treatment of TB infection from DPH, a Latent Infection Surveillance Report Form and a prescription are required.

DPH recently received a shipment of Tubersol and has begun to fill back orders. At this time, no more than 5 vials of Tubersol (10 doses/vial) will be shipped per order. All providers are reminded that Tubersol provided by DPH should only be used to test persons with at least one risk factor for TB infection; it should NOT be used to routinely screen employees regardless of whether they are new hires or as part of an annual TB screening program. All employee TB testing should be done with product purchased independently by the facility.

Guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the prevention of TB in healthcare facilities recommends TB testing of all healthcare workers on hire; annual TB screening is recommended only if the facility is considered medium risk based on an annual TB risk assessment of the facility. The majority of facilities in Connecticut are low risk based on this assessment. These guidelines can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5417.pdf>. DPH TB Control Program staff is available to assist in answering questions related to this risk assessment.

Report forms and other TB information can be found at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/tb>. Please contact the DPH TB Control Program at (860) 509-7722 with any questions.