

DPHHS HAN HEALTH ADVISORY

Cover Sheet

DATE: June 7, 2019

SUBJECT: Nationwide Shortage of Tuberculin
Skin Test Antigens

INSTRUCTIONS:

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**For LOCAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT reference only**

DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:

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Epidemiology Section
1-406-444-0273**

**DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:
1-800-701-5769**

**DPHHS HAN Website:
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Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Information Service: passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please update your HAN contact information on the Montana Public Health Directory

Information Sheet

Date: June 10, 2019

Subject: Nationwide Shortage of Tuberculin Skin Test Antigens: CDC Recommendations for Patient Care and Public Health Practice

Background: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is expecting a 3 to 10 month nationwide shortage of APLISOL®, a product of Par Pharmaceuticals. APLISOL® is one of two purified-protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin antigens that are licensed by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in performing tuberculin skin tests. The manufacturer notified CDC that they anticipate a supply interruption of APLISOL® 5 mL (50 tests) beginning in June 2019, followed by a supply interruption of

APLISOL® 1 mL (10 tests) in November 2019. The expected shortage of APLISOL® 1 mL (10 tests) could occur before November 2019, if demand increases before then. The 3-10 month timeframe for the nationwide shortage is the manufacturer's current estimate and is subject to change.

Information: CDC Health Advisory Notice that was issued June 6: Nationwide Shortage of Tuberculin Skin Test Antigens: CDC Recommendations for Patient Care and Public Health Practice

Recommendations: See the attached HAN for the following CDC recommendations: CDC recommends three general approaches to prevent a decrease in TB testing capability because of the expected shortage of APLISOL®.

- Substitute IGRA blood tests for TSTs.
- Substitute TUBERSOL® for APLISOL® for skin testing
- Prioritize allocation of TSTs, in consultation with state and local public health authorities.

High-risk groups for TB infection include:

- People who are recent contacts exposed to persons with TB disease;
 - People born in or who frequently travel to countries where TB disease is common;
 - People who currently or used to live in large group settings, such as homeless shelters or correctional facilities;
 - People with weaker immune systems, such as those with certain health conditions or taking certain medications that may alter immunity; and
 - Children, especially those under age 5, if they are in one of the risk groups noted above.
- Recent CDC updates to the 2005 TB screening of health care personnel, notes that annual TB testing of health care personnel is not recommended unless there is a known exposure or ongoing transmission. This applies to low and medium-risk facilities. [CDC HAN 420](#)