



Technical Bulletin



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Topic: Tuberculosis (TB) Testing Interim Recommendations Around COVID-19 Vaccinations

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To: Nevada Healthcare Providers, Healthcare Facilities, Public Health Departments, Correctional Facilities, Infection Preventionists, and Infection Control Departments

Situation

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently released interim guidance on clinical considerations for use of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines which includes guidance on tuberculosis (TB) testing (see section "Laboratory Testing"). The full CDC *Clinical Considerations* can be accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>.

Summary of CDC's Interim Guidance for TB Testing Around COVID-19 Vaccine Administration:

1) Interpretations of TB test results in COVID-19 vaccinated persons:

- CDC Statement: "Inactive vaccines do not interfere with tuberculosis (TB) test results. There is no immunologic reason to believe either a Tuberculin Skin Test (TST)... or blood draw for interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) would affect the safety or effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. We have no data to inform the impact of the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines on either TB test for infection".

2) Considerations for the *Timing of TB testing* for TB infection of healthcare personnel, patients, and inmates around the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Perform IGRA blood draw or TST placement *before* COVID-19 vaccination, if possible.
- Post COVID-19 vaccination, defer IGRA or TST until 4 weeks after COVID-19 vaccine 2-dose series completed.
- Situations involving TB contact investigations: please refer to the CDC's [Interim Clinical Considerations](#).
- Weigh the risks and benefits of delaying TST/IGRA in potential recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Recommendations from the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health TB Program for TB Testing Around COVID-19 Vaccination:

1) Perform IGRA blood draw or TST placement *before* COVID-19 vaccination, if possible.

2) If TB testing must be delayed 4 weeks after COVID-19 vaccine 2-dose series:

- Create *interim TB infection control protocols* for COVID-19 vaccine-related TB testing delays.
- Document situations where TB testing was delayed, providing vaccination type and dates; perform the TB test no later than 8 weeks following the COVID-19 vaccine series.
- Administer a TB Symptoms Questionnaire and perform TB symptom screening for individuals who are unable to obtain TB testing.
- New hire/pre-placement situations: If IGRA (recommended) or TST cannot be performed before receiving the vaccine, additionally, obtain a physical examination or certification from a healthcare provider indicating the individual is free from active TB disease.

Resources:

Nevada Administrative Codes related to TB Testing, NAC 441A.370-380:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NAC/NAC-441A.html#NAC441A>

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

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccination website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>

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



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