

**TUBERCULOSIS**  
**RFP No. EO1873-13**

**ATTACHMENT O**



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File: CDD/TBB

April 11, 2013

### **Hawaii TB ALERT: Nationwide Shortages of PPD and INH**

Nationwide shortages of both tuberculin and INH are currently affecting Hawaii.

**For questions with this alert, contact the Hawaii TB Control Program (808-832-5731).**

**Nationwide Tuberculin Shortage:** There is a nationwide shortage of Tubersol® and Aplisol® purified protein derivative (PPD) solution. Manufacturers of PPD used in the tuberculin skin test (TST) are continuing to experience production delays. At this time we anticipate that adequate PPD solution may be available in several months, but this is only an estimate. The shortage will affect our ability to conduct routine TB screening for at least 90 days.

**Response to Tuberculin Shortage in Hawaii:** In order to preserve limited supplies of PPD solution, the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) is temporarily suspending TB clearance requirements that are mandated in the Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 164. Specific guidance is listed in Attachment 1 and can also be found on the Hawaii TB Control Program website at [www.hawaii.gov/health/tb](http://www.hawaii.gov/health/tb).

**Hawaii TB Control Program Services:** In order to preserve limited PPD supplies, the State of Hawaii TB Program will temporarily suspend routine TB screening services for low-risk individuals.

During the shortage, the TB Program will continue to provide community TB screening services only for the following highest risk categories:

- Evaluating contacts to a person with pulmonary or laryngeal TB
- Evaluation persons with symptoms suggestive of TB disease
- Evaluating high-risk immigrants referred from the Honolulu Quarantine Station
- Evaluating persons infected with HIV
- Evaluating persons who are immune-compromised due to medical treatment, especially prolonged corticosteroid treatment or treatment with TNF-alpha antagonists.

Individuals who are seeking TB Clearance for employment or school should delay until further notice. Because state-mandated TB Clearance requirements are temporarily suspended, attendance to work or schools should not be restricted due to a lack of TB Clearance.

**Hawaii TB ALERT: Nationwide Shortages of PPD and INH**

Page 2 of 3

April 11, 2013

Individuals seeking TB screening at DOH clinics who do not meet the above criteria will be asked to return at a later date for processing. The list of clinics includes Public Health Nursing Clinics on all islands and the Lanakila TB Center on Oahu.

**Hospitals and Clinics with PPD Solution:** Some medical providers and medical institutions still have a limited amount of PPD solution available. Medical providers and medical institutions with PPD solution are encouraged to suspend routine testing for latent TB infection and preserve PPD solution for those at highest risk for developing active tuberculosis.

- Prioritize TST for persons of highest public health priority:
  - Contacts to a person with pulmonary or laryngeal TB
  - As part of an evaluation of persons with symptoms suggestive of TB disease
  - Persons infected with HIV
  - Persons who are immune-compromised due to medical treatment, especially prolonged corticosteroid treatment or treatment with TNF-alpha antagonists.
- Programs should suspend routine annual tuberculin skin testing performed as part of an infection control program (i.e. employee screening). A TB symptom screen (Attachment 2) may be used to determine who would benefit from CXR or referral to the DOH.
- Programs may consider alternative screening tests such as an Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) blood test for TB infection.
- High-risk individuals identified with a positive test for latent TB infection (TST or IGRA) may still be referred for evaluation and treatment at DOH clinics.

**Hospitals and Clinics without PPD Solution:** Medical providers and medical institutions that have exhausted their supply of PPD solution should suspend annual screening of employees until sufficient PPD solution becomes available. A TB symptom screen (Attachment 2) may be used to determine who would benefit from CXR or referral to the DOH. If necessary, consider screening for LTBI with IGRA instead of TST.

**Referral to DOH for TB Work-up:** All current DOH TB Program services related to the treatment of active TB disease are not affected by the nationwide PPD shortage.

For clinic and hospital referral of individuals with symptoms suggestive of tuberculosis, the Hawaii State TB Control Program will continue to provide CXR services and evaluation for active tuberculosis.

Hawaii TB ALERT: Nationwide Shortages of PPD and INH

Page 3 of 3

April 11, 2013

For individuals seeking TB Clearance that do not need TST-testing (ex. people with known prior positive TST, emergent homeless shelter clearance), the Hawaii State TB Control Program will continue to accept referrals and provide CXR services and evaluation for active tuberculosis.

**Resuming TB Skin Testing in Hawaii:** The TB Control Program will provide public notice when sufficient PPD solution is available to resume normal operations. For your information, the FDA drug and PPD shortage website link can be found here:  
(<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/default.htm>)

**Isoniazid Shortage in Hawaii:** The nationwide shortage of Isoniazid (INH) is still ongoing. The Hawaii State TB Control Program continues to maintain a nominal supply of INH to insure treatment of active TB cases only. All previous recommendations regarding INH restrictions are still in effect. The shortage of INH is expected to continue for the next 60 days, at least.

Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.



## Temporary Suspension of Tuberculosis Clearance Requirements

Hawaii State Department of Health

Tuberculosis Control Program

---

The state has temporarily suspended all tuberculosis (TB) clearance requirements that are mandated in Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 164, for school personnel, students, food handlers, and workers in health care, domiciliary care, daycare, and residential care facilities until further notice. The state will not restrict attendance at work or school due to the absence of a TB clearance. The suspension is in response to a nationwide shortage of testing solution required for tuberculin skin testing. This suspension includes, but is not limited to:

- **Foodhandlers**
- **Students** (includes persons seeking first time attendance in daycare, preschool, K-12, and persons over compulsory school attendance age who enrolls in a post-secondary school)
- **School personnel** (includes teachers, substitute teachers, bus drivers, and volunteers)
- **Child foster families**
- **Licensed childcare providers**
- **Employees, volunteers, & residents of:**
  - Adult day care facilities
  - Adult residential care homes
  - Assisted living facilities
  - Domiciliary care facilities
  - Health care facilities (e.g., hospitals and medical clinics)
  - Home health agencies
  - Hospice
  - Intermediate care facilities
  - Long term care facilities
  - Nursing facilities
  - Skilled nursing facilities
  - Special treatment facilities
  - Therapeutic living programs

**In summary, at this time you DO NOT need TB clearance for the reasons listed above and attendance at work or school should not be restricted at this time due to the absence of a TB clearance.**

The DOH will continue to conduct TB screening for the following high-risk groups:

- Persons with signs and symptoms of active TB disease
- Contacts exposed to an infectious case of TB
- High-risk immigrants referred from the Honolulu Quarantine Station
- Persons with immunodeficiencies
- Persons who require TB screening due to medical treatment



**Tuberculosis Symptom Screening Questionnaire**  
 Hawaii State Department of Health  
 Tuberculosis Control Program

Hawaii TB Control Program Symptom Screen	
TB Symptom Screening	Onset and Duration of Symptoms
1. Cough for $\geq 3$ weeks duration <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
2. Coughing up blood <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
3. Fever <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
4. Night sweats <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
5. Unexplained weight loss <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Amount:
6. Unusual weakness or fatigue <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Refer the client for chest X-ray to rule out TB if he/she reports having a cough for $\geq 3$ weeks, plus at least one of the other symptoms (#2 - #6).	