Tuberculosis Testing Update: Nationwide Shortage of PPD

There is currently a nationwide shortage of PPD solution. Reserving current supplies for testing those who are at highest risk for latent TB infection (LTBI) and progression to TB disease is needed until supplies normalize.

THE TB Program and State Pharmacy has been monitoring the national shortage of Tubersol PPD solution used for tuberculin skin testing (TST). Currently the State Pharmacy has an extremely limited (~400 doses) supply of Tubersol. To address this situation, the following actions are needed:

What is Henrico Health Department is doing during the PPD shortage?

-- We are continuing to...

- Evaluate, treat and case manage individuals for TB disease
- Investigate contacts of pulmonary TB cases

-- Prioritizing the use of PPD according to the latest CDC and VDH guidance

-- Providing T-spot testing (a blood test that helps diagnose latent TB infection) per latest guidance of CDC and VDH

GUIDANCE:

1. Effective immediately, until supplies normalize, PPD solution (either Tubersol or Aplisol) should be reserved for use only for contact evaluation in children under the age of 5 and in those rare situations where it is impossible to draw blood on a client.
2. TB Contacts over the age of 5 years should be tested using a T-SPOT.TB blood test.
3. Testing for purposes other than contact evaluation should be by IGRA and at the client expense or provider that requires test to be done.
4. If you have opened bottles of PPD solution that will expire 30 days after opening, please use the product so that it is not wasted even if this testing does not fall within the current use restrictions.
5. Children receiving immunizations in preparation for school admission can be screening using a risk assessment, tuberculin skin test (TST) or IGRA, Physicians should use discretion and evaluate to determine if the testing can be deferred.
6. Another option for screening is the Quantiferon TB Gold test # 182873 that is offered by Lab Corp

If you have questions please contact Ann Morgan, RN TB Program Coordinator Senior Nurse (804) 501-4519