Background

A nationwide shortage of PPD solution has been reported. 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.

To assist private healthcare providers in meeting the needs of their patient population the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Disease Prevention, TB Control Program is sharing recommendations recently provided to local health districts throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Testing Recommendations

Until supplies normalize, PPD solution (either Tubersol or Aplisol) should be reserved for use only for contact evaluation in children 12 and under, and in those rare situations where it is impossible to draw blood on a client.

• Contacts over the age of 12 years should be tested using an interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test.
• Testing for purposes other than contact evaluation should be by IGRA or deferred until the supply of PPD has improved.
• Children receiving immunizations in preparation for school admission can be screened using a risk assessment, tuberculin skin test (TST) or IGRA, Physicians should use discretion and evaluate to determine if the testing can be deferred.

Methods used to diagnose LTBI

Two methods are available to diagnose LTBI: the traditional Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST) and interferon gamma release assays (IGRA). IGRA are whole-blood tests that have been approved by the FDA. Currently there are two available, QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT) and T-SPOT®.TB test.

Basic TB Screening and Testing Information

A standardized TB risk assessment form has been used for many years in Virginia. This form can be adapted to meet the needs of your facility. The risk assessment form screens clients for both symptoms of TB and environmental or medical risk factors.

Perform a TB risk assessment to determine if a risk for acquiring TB infection or progression to active TB disease is present and further testing with a TST or IGRA is needed.

• If TB symptoms or other risk factors are not present, further testing is not necessary.
• When a history of a prior positive TST or IGRA is reported, a repeat TST or IGRA is not needed.

For Additional Assistance
Contact your Local Health Department

Click the link below for further Information
The Diagnosis and Treatment of Latent TB Infection