

Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) Treatment Updates Webinar

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Questions and Answers

Question: Will the current risk screen be updated with this LTBI focus in mind? Risk to progression...

Answer: For community providers, the VDH TB Program recommends the use of the [Virginia Tuberculosis \(TB\) Risk Assessment](#) found on the [TB Screening and Testing page](#) of the [VDH TB Program website](#). This risk assessment highlights the risk for progression to active TB. Risk for progression to disease should be taken into consideration when screening a patient for TB. The VDH TB Program will also review other risk assessment forms currently in use to ensure that 'Risk for progression' is clearly outlined and communicated to the screener.

Question: Are there any guidelines for patients diagnosed with and/or undergoing treatment for LTBI when it comes to getting the COVID vaccine, especially now that we are in Phase 1B?

Answer: The Global TB Institute consultants provide the following guidance: *For anyone planning to receive the COVID vaccine, there is no contraindication for individuals on or planning to be on TB therapy, whether for latent or active TB.*

For the currently available COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) CDC considers a history of the following to be a contraindication to vaccination:

- Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components
- Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components (including polyethylene glycol [PEG])*
- Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to polysorbate (due to potential cross-reactive hypersensitivity with the vaccine ingredient PEG)*

* These persons should not receive mRNA COVID-19 vaccination (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) at this time unless they have been evaluated by an allergist-immunologist and it is determined that the person can safely receive the vaccine (e.g., under observation, in a setting with advanced medical care available). See Appendix C for more information on ingredients included in mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.