



# Technical Bulletin



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Topic: Updated 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

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## Situation

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently updated its interim guidance on clinical considerations for use of the COVID-19 vaccines addressing all three available types, Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Janssen vaccines and includes guidance on tuberculosis (TB) testing (see section "Laboratory Testing" in the full guidance). The full updated 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:

- The reliability of a negative TST or IGRA [interferon gamma release assay] result after COVID-19 vaccination has not been studied.

### 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:

- COVID-19 vaccination should not be delayed because of testing for TB infection.
- Perform IGRA blood draw or TST placement *before* COVID-19 vaccination series is initiated.
- Post COVID-19 vaccination, defer IGRA or TST  $\geq 4$  weeks after COVID-19 vaccine single-dose or 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 or at the same time* as COVID-19 vaccination series initiated (all types of COVID-19 vaccines), if possible.

### 2) If TB testing must be delayed 4 weeks after COVID-19 vaccine single-dose or 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.
- Healthcare personnel who require annual TB testing but are delayed beyond the TB testing anniversary date due to COVID vaccination should receive a single-step TST or an IGRA as soon

as reasonably possible. (In this situation, conducting a repeat “baseline” 2-step TST is not necessary for continuing healthcare personnel working at the same facility; however, baseline 2-step TST or an IGRA is required for new healthcare personnel).

**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: [https://dpbh.nv.gov/Resources/Technical\\_Bulletins-New/](https://dpbh.nv.gov/Resources/Technical_Bulletins-New/)

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