

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

July 26, 2021

MEDICAL ADVISORY: COVID-19 VACCINE AND TB TESTING

Dear Healthcare Provider:

All Hawaii residents aged 12 years and older are now eligible and recommended to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently advises that a tuberculin skin test (TST) or an interferon release assay (IGRA) can be done **before or during the same encounter as COVID-19 vaccination**. When testing with TST or IGRA cannot be done at the same time as COVID-19 vaccination, these tests should be delayed ≥ 4 weeks, due to the unknown reliability of a negative TST or IGRA result after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 vaccination should not be delayed because of testing for TB infection.

When considering testing:

- TST and IGRA are not expected to affect the safety or effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccine
- The reliability of a positive TST or IGRA result after COVID-19 vaccination is expected to be the same as without vaccination
- A false negative TST or IGRA cannot be excluded if not delayed until at least 4 weeks after COVID-19 vaccination.

If TB testing needs to be delayed, clients requiring a TB test (TST or IGRA) as part of the [State TB clearance requirements](#)¹ can be referred to the DOH TB Program or Public Health Nursing (PHN) Offices to receive a temporary TB clearance.

Please call or have the individual (parent) call the following TB testing sites for questions or referrals:

TB Control Program, Lanakila Health Center: 832-5731

Oahu PHN Offices:

East Honolulu: 733-9220

Windward: 233-5450

Central: 453-6190

Leeward: 675-0073

¹ State Health Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 11-164.2, sections 13, 20-25 require documentation of a TB clearance for students prior to first entry and attendance into primary schools or post-secondary schools in Hawaii, as well as for some occupations. Individuals who are foreign-born, immunosuppressed, had a recent known exposure to TB, or have symptoms consistent with active TB will likely require a TB test as part of their clearance process.

MEDICAL ADVISORY: COVID-19 VACCINE AND TB TESTING

July 26, 2021

Page 2

Big Island PHN Offices:

East Hawaii: 974-6025

West Hawaii: 322-1500

Maui PHN Office: 984-8260

Molokai PHN Office: 553-7880

Lanai PHN Office: 565-7114

Kauai PHN Office: 241-3387

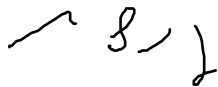
Sincerely,



Glenn M. Wasserman, MD, MPH
Chief, Communicable Disease
Public Health Nursing Division



Sarah K. Kemble, MD
Acting State Epidemiologist



Genevieve Ley, MD, MPH, FACP
Acting Chief
Tuberculosis Control Branch

References:

TB Tests and mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/letters/covid19-mrna.html>

Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the U.S.:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>



Hawaii Department of Health Provider Advisory Network (PAN)

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) has set up a new Provider Advisory Network (PAN) that will serve to quickly distribute information to Hawaii's medical community. Through the network, users will be able to receive alerts about new medical advisories, view past medical advisories, and access other resources. **This system will be replacing the current distribution system for medical advisories, so if you wish to continue receiving medical advisories, you will have to register with PAN.**

PAN is available to all healthcare providers in Hawaii who provide direct patient care. You can access PAN by using the following URL:

<https://PAN.health.hawaii.gov>

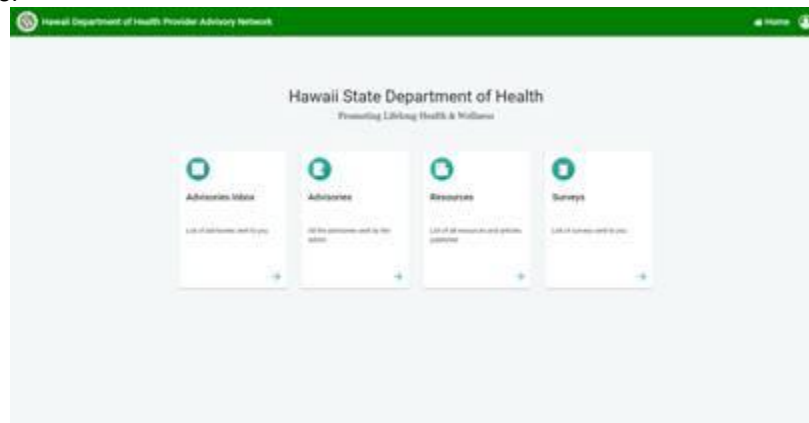
In order to access PAN features, you must register for an account and submit a profile for account approval.

Registering for PAN:

1. Go to <https://PAN.health.hawaii.gov>
2. Click on "Create an account" then fill in your information and click "Sign up" to receive a verification email.
3. After verifying your email address, log into PAN and fill out your profile, then click submit. After submitting, your account will have to be approved before you have access to PAN. You will receive an email once your account has been approved.
4. After your account has been approved, return to the site and log in again. You will now have access to the content within PAN.

PAN features:

After your account has been approved, when you log in to PAN you will arrive a home page from which you can access PAN's features.



PAN's home page

Advisories Inbox: You will receive email alerts when medical advisories that match your profile are sent out (matching is based on county and specialization). This section contains only those advisories that match your profile (note: all advisories, including ones not matching your profile, are accessible in the "Advisories" section).

Advisories: Contains all released medical advisories.

Catalogs: Collections of resources for health care providers (informational pages, links, documents, etc.)

Surveys: Surveys sent out to users will be accessible through this section.

If you have any questions about PAN, please email doh.PAN.admin@doh.hawaii.gov.