

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

September 3, 2021

Medical Advisory: Update regarding Timing of COVID-19 Vaccines and TB Testing

Dear Healthcare Providers:

As of August 31, 2021, TB testing with TST (skin test) or IGRA (interferon release assay) can be done before, during the same encounter as administering the COVID-19 vaccine, or soon after. **There is no longer any waiting period of greater than 4 weeks after giving the COVID-19 vaccine to do TB testing.**

Previously, if the TST or IGRA could not be done before giving the COVID-19 vaccine or at the same encounter, then it was recommended to wait greater than 4 weeks after completing the vaccination to minimize potential interference between the vaccine and TB testing. This recommendation was made out of an abundance of caution when COVID-19 vaccines were new. Of what is now known about the immunologic response to COVID-19 mRNA vaccination, we do not expect any changes to the TST or IGRA results. Therefore, the recommendation has been updated, so that TB testing may now be administered without regard to timing with COVID-19 vaccination.

COVID-19 vaccination should not be delayed because of TB testing. Patients, who have active TB disease or an illness that is being evaluated as active TB disease, can receive a COVID-19 vaccine (note: the presence of a moderate or severe acute illness is a precaution to administration of all vaccines).

You may refer your patients to have TB testing for TB clearance¹ at a Public Health Nursing (PHN) office by appointment, or as a walk-in at the Lanakila Health Center TB Control Branch (see below).

<p>TB Control Program, Lanakila Health Center: 832-5731</p> <p>Oahu PHN Offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - East Honolulu: 733-9220 - Windward: 233-5450 - Central: 453-6190 - Leeward: 675-0073 	<p>Big Island PHN Offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - East Hawaii: 974-6025 - West Hawaii: 322-1500 <p>Maui PHN Office: 984-8260</p> <p>Molokai PHN Office: 553-7880</p> <p>Lanai PHN Office: 565-7114</p> <p>Kauai PHN Office: 241-3387</p>
---	---

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.

Reference:

Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>.

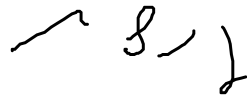
Sincerely,



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



Sarah K. Kemble, MD
State Epidemiologist



Genevieve Ley, MD, MPH, FACP
Branch Chief and TB Clinic Physician
Lanakila Health Center TB Control Branch