



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

January 15, 2021

ALISA: NH #2021-002

**INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COADMINISTRATION OF COVID-19 VACCINE AND  
TUBERCULOSIS TESTING PRODUCTS**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated "Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States." The information is located here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>. Under the section titled "Laboratory Reporting," the CDC provided recommendations about the timing of the administration of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine and Tuberculosis (TB) testing products.

For either a Tuberculin Skin Test (TST) or an interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) test, the CDC recommends placing the tests prior to administering COVID-19 vaccine. If vaccine was already administered or a decision is made that receiving the vaccine is a greater priority than TB testing, the CDC recommends waiting until four weeks after the two-step vaccination process is completed before administering the TB test. The CDC also recommends

- Performing TB symptom screening on all healthcare personnel or residents, and
- All potential recipients of COVID-19 vaccination weigh the risks and benefits of delaying TST/IGRA with their providers.

In the situations where staff and resident/resident representatives prioritize the vaccine over TB testing, it places the nursing home in conflict with [WAC 388-97-1380](#), which requires TB testing of staff and residents within 3 days of admission or employment.

Residential Care Services (RCS) is writing emergency rules to modify WAC 388-97-1380 and WAC 388-97-1580 to permit deferral of TB testing in order for staff and residents to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Facilities must complete TB testing as soon as permitted under the CDC guidance on the COVID-19 vaccine.

For those facilities that, prior to implementation of the emergency rule, delayed or deferred TB testing consistent with the CDC's COVID vaccine guidance, RCS will consider extenuating clinical considerations and recognize the CDC recommendations when determining compliance with TB testing standards.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Herke, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager at (509) 209-3088 or [lisa.herke@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:lisa.herke@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

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