

## Rescinding of Interim Guidance for Tuberculosis Testing and COVID-19 Vaccine

### Background

On December 31, 2020, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDOH) had sent out an Interim guidance about the timing of COVID-19 mRNA vaccinations and the immune-based tests for *M. tuberculosis* infection, that is, the tuberculin skin test (TST) and interferon gamma release assays (IGRAs). TSTs and IGRAs were previously recommended to be administered > 4 weeks after completion of COVID-19 vaccination to minimize potential interference between vaccination and TB testing. This was out of an abundance of caution during a period when these vaccines were new.

As of August 31, 2021, the CDC has issued new guidance about COVID-19 vaccination and the timing of immune-based tests for tuberculosis infection, such as the TST and IGRA. Of what is known about the immunologic response to COVID-19 mRNA vaccination, nothing would be expected to change TST or IGRA results. As a result, NDDoH is rescinding its interim guidance on Tuberculosis Testing and COVID-19 Vaccine. COVID-19 vaccination should not be delayed because of testing for TB infection. Testing for TB infection with one of the immune-based methods, either the TST or IGRA, can be done before, after, or during the same encounter as COVID-19 vaccination.

### For More Information

Full text of these recommendations can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>. If you have questions, contact the Division of Sexually Transmitted and Bloodborne Diseases at 800.472.2180.

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### Categories of Health Alert Network messages:

**Health Alert** Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance

**Health Advisory** May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation

**Health Update** Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation

**HAN Info Service** Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

##This message was distributed to state and local health officers, state and local epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations##