



March 31, 2020

800 NE Oregon Street  
Portland, OR 97038  
Voice 971-673-0169  
Fax 971-673-0178  
<http://healthoregon.org/tb>

Subject: COVID-19 and TB Services

Dear LPHA:

Until the situation with COVID-19 resolves the following is recommended:

- 1- TB drug shortages are increasing. Currently there are shortages of ethambutol and rifapentine. **Order all the drugs needed at diagnosis to complete a patient's LTBI or TB disease treatment.**
- 2- Utilize electronic DOT and monthly telehealth visits when patient safety allows for this. See Multnomah County documents: [Mult. Co. COVID-19 Messaging and PPE for Home Visits](#) and [Mult. Co. TB Care Priorities for Home Visits](#) for assistance with decision making. Contact me if you are unable to do DOT for any reason.
- 3- LPHAs are not required to treat LTBI unless the patient is a case contact or B-waiver immigrant. Consider postponing LTBI treatment for other patients if needed.
- 4- Defer evaluation and treatment of B-waiver immigrants if current resources do not allow for follow-up.

All other TB follow-up should continue as per [program element](#) and [investigative guideline](#). Feel free to contact me at [heidi.behm@state.or.us](mailto:heidi.behm@state.or.us) or cell phone 503-358-8516 if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Heidi Behm, RN, MPH  
TB Controller, Oregon Health Authority