

National shortage of Rifampin capsules

North Dakota, along with the rest of the country, is experiencing a shortage of Rifampin (RIF). Rifampin is one of the first-line medications used in the prevention and treatment of active tuberculosis (TB) and latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI). Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The bacteria usually cause infection of the lungs but can be found in any part of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain. If not treated properly, TB disease can be fatal.

North Dakota and other states were notified of the Rifampin shortage on December 22, 2021. Since then, ND has been able to obtain and utilize Rifampin from the CDC Emergency Drug Stockpile. At this time, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) continues to have a limited supply of Rifampin on hand. It is likely this shortage will continue for several more weeks. Due to this shortage, treatment prioritization will be given to those individuals with confirmed or suspected active TB and high-risk LTBI individuals such as:

- Persons with medical conditions which increase likelihood of progression to tuberculosis disease (i.e., HIV/AIDS, diabetes, immunosuppression, TNF Alpha Inhibitor TX).
- Children younger than 5 years.
- Recent confirmed close/high-risk contact to a confirmed case of tuberculosis disease.

Individuals who are currently being treated for TB infection (LTBI) will continue to receive treatment for free of charge until completion of their treatment. However, NDDoH is recommending providers defer treatment beginning March 1, 2022, for those yet to start their Rifampin-based LTBI treatment. Isoniazid-based LTBI regimens for those without contraindications can be initiated as usual.

For More Information

For any questions regarding alternative treatment recommendations or other treatment questions, please contact Saurav Dahal, TB Prevention and Surveillance Coordinator at NDDOH, at 701.328.2377 or sauravdahal@nd.gov.

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