

National Shortage of Rifampin Capsules

North Dakota, along with the rest of the country, is experiencing a shortage of Rifampin (RIF) capsules. Rifampin is one of the first-line medications used in the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis (TB). TB is caused by bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The bacteria usually cause infection of the lungs but may spread to any part of the body. If not treated properly, TB disease can be fatal.

At this time, the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a limited supply of Rifampin on hand. It is likely the shortage will continue for several more weeks. Treatment prioritization will be given to individuals with confirmed or suspected active TB and high-risk latent TB infections (LTBI) individuals such as:

- Persons with medical conditions which increase the likelihood of progression to tuberculosis disease (i.e., HIV/AIDS, diabetes, immunosuppression, patients receiving TNF-alpha inhibitor therapy).
- Children younger than 5 years of age.
- 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 free of charge until completion of their treatment. However, HHS is recommending providers defer treatment beginning March 15, 2023, for those yet to start their Rifampin-based LTBI treatment. Isoniazid-based LTBI treatment 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 Laura Cronquist, TB Prevention and Surveillance Coordinator at HHS, at 701.328.2377 or lcronquist@nd.gov.

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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

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##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##