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Infectious Disease News

What's New in AAP News *Posted 5/7/13*
AAP offers advice during tuberculin skin test antigen shortages; First known outbreak of *S. sonnei* with decreased susceptibility to azithromycin; Data show antimicrobial stewardship programs are effective; and more...

As Seasonal Influenza Wanes, Be Aware of H7N9 *Posted 4/29/13*
A new strain of H7N9 influenza virus has been causing severe illness and death among individuals in China, but no cases of this novel influenza A virus have been reported in the United States.

Human Cases of Avian Flu Rise in China *Posted 4/8/13*
As of April 7, 2013, 21 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A (H7N9) virus in China were reported by the WHO.

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Red Book[®] Online News

Check the *Red Book Online* News page often for breaking news related to pediatric infectious diseases and immunizations, including new vaccine recommendations, vaccine or antiviral shortages, product recalls, disease outbreaks, travel notices, and more. *Red Book Online* subscribers can also access the [news archives](#).

May 2013

What's New in *AAP News* Posted 5/7/13

AAP Offers Advice during Tuberculin Skin Test Antigen Shortages

On April 12, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that there will be, until at least the end of May, a shortage of Tubersol (Sanofi Pasteur Limited), one of two purified-protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin products licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The 50-dose vials of Tubersol are unavailable, and the supply of 10-dose vials will be limited.

The manufacturer of Aplisol (JHP Pharmaceuticals, LLC), the other PPD tuberculin product licensed by the FDA, advised the FDA that the product is on allocation and is available but in limited quantity. Acute local shortages of Aplisol are being reported to the CDC by health care providers who switch from Tubersol to Aplisol. For more information about what is recommended during this shortage, see the full article in *AAP News*.

ID Snapshot: How Much Do You Know about Gonorrhea?

Looking for an infectious disease (ID) brain teaser? Check out Dr. Cody Meissner's most recent challenging case in the *AAP News* column [ID Snapshot](#).

What's New with HPV Vaccine? It's Safe, Effective and should be Considered for Sexual Abuse Victims

Numerous studies have been published on the safety and effectiveness of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine since the Academy first recommended it in 2007 for females at ages 11-12 years.

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NEWS AND FEATURES



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AAP offers advice during tuberculin skin test antigen shortages

Jeffrey R. Starke, M.D., FAAP

On April 12, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that there will be, until at least the end of May, a shortage of Tubersol (Sanofi Pasteur Limited), one of two purified-protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin products licensed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

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Recommendations during these Shortages



1. **Only children with a specific risk factor for infection with *M. tuberculosis* should be tested using either available method.** There are validated questionnaires that help clinicians identify these risk factors, which involve mainly birth in or travel to high prevalence countries or a family history of tuberculosis infection or disease. The AAP *Red Book* lists risk factors and suggestions for frequency of testing (<http://aapredbook.aappublications.org/>).
2. **Substitute Aplisol for Tubersol for skin testing.** However, shortages of Aplisol are expected to become more widespread, perhaps limiting the feasibility of this approach.
3. **Substitute IGRA blood tests for TSTs for children ≥ 5 years of age.** The initial costs associated with using the IGRA tests are greater because of the need for phlebotomy, preparation of blood samples and specific laboratory services for analysis. However, the overall cost may be lower because of the increased specificity of the tests, thus avoiding false positive results and the need for subsequent evaluation and treatment. One or both of the licensed IGRA tests may not be available in all practice settings or be covered by some insurance plans.
4. **Allocate available PPD tuberculin to children < 5 years of age.** If the PPD tuberculin shortage is extreme, an IGRA test can be used with caution in children 3 to 4 years of age.
5. **Local and state health departments are facing the same shortages, so children involved in a tuberculosis contact investigation may be tested by them in a different manner than usual.**



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