July 30, 2019

Dear Assisted Living Residence Provider:

As you may know, there is a nationwide shortage of tuberculin skin test antigens which is expected to continue for an undetermined period. This shortage has the potential to lead to regulatory noncompliance for Assisted Living Residences.

If every effort has been made to obtain a tuberculin skin test as required by Chapter 2800.141(a)(11) relating to medical evaluation and health care, but the test could not be obtained due to the shortage of testing materials, the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Human Services Licensing (department) will not cite a regulatory violation provided you are able to document your attempts to obtain the required testing. The department will reevaluate its position in this matter on November 29, 2019 based on the availability of the necessary antigens at that time.

The department recommends that facilities with limited access to tuberculin skin test antigens use them for residents who are at increased risk of contracting tuberculosis (TB), including:

- Those who are newly immigrated from a country where TB is common, creating a higher risk of disease transmission
- Those who have never been tested
- Those who have a history suggestive of TB or TB exposure
- Those who are considered otherwise at high risk of TB disease or exposure
- New residents of the Assisted Living Residence

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Bureau of Human Services Licensing’s Provider Support Hotline at 1-866-503-3926 or inquire via email to ra-pwarlheadquarters@state.pa.us.

Thank you for your continued partnership in the care of the commonwealth’s Assisted Living residents.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Parisi, Director