County of Erie
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

HEALTH ADVISORY # 309 **September 12, 2013**
Update to 4/8/2013 Health Advisory: Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) Shortage

Please distribute to the Healthcare Providers, Infection Control Department, Emergency Department, Employee Health Service, Infectious Disease Department, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Acute and Long Term Care Facilities, and Hospice and Home Care Programs.

SUMMARY

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is alerting of a recurrent nationwide shortage of tuberculin skin test antigen solutions. Supplies of Tubersol were restored in early June, 2013 but are again in shortage until at least mid-October. The CDC alert is referenced below.

In New York State, some health care facilities have had difficulties ordering adequate supplies. Please refer to the earlier Erie County health advisory of April 9, 2013 at http://www2.erie.gov/health/sites/www2.erie.gov.health/files/uploads/pdfs/304.pdf or the New York State health advisories of March 25 and April 15, 2013 on the Health Commerce System. These health advisories remain in effect.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about TB testing or this advisory can be directed to the Erie County Department of Health TB Program at (716) 858-7731 (Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The CDC Health Alert: Recurrent Nationwide Shortage of Tuberculin Skin Test Antigen Solutions: CDC Recommendations for Patient Care and Public Health Practice at: http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00355.asp

For additional information about the availability of PPD, visit the Association of Health Systems Pharmacists website at: http://www.ashp.org/DrugShortages/Current/Bulletin.aspx?id=973

For information on TB testing, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at: http://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/testing/default.htm

The ECDOH Health Alert & Advisory System is an e-mail notification system designed to alert community partners about important health related information. You can sign up to receive alerts & advisories at: http://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=node/59.

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary

The Erie County Department of Health does not provide medical advice. The information provided on the Erie County Department of Health website is not an attempt to practice medicine and is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. It is for informational purposes only. Always seek the advice of your personal physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition or issue. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of the content found on the Erie County Department of Health website or this correspondence.