

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments

FROM: Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: April 9, 2020

RE: **Tuberculosis Drug Shortage**

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#### Rifampin and Ethambutol Drug Shortage

- There is an ongoing national shortage of **rifampin 150mg and 300mg capsules**, and **ethambutol 100mg and 400mg** indicated for the treatment of active tuberculosis (TB) and latent tuberculosis (LTBI).
- Please prioritize rifampin use for the following patients:
  - Active cases of tuberculosis
  - LTBI cases that have already initiated treatment with rifampin
- Consider deferring starting rifampin for any new LTBI cases until the shortage is resolved. Consider ordering isoniazid as an alternative LTBI treatment.

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES

IF YOU CAN'T ACCESS HYPERLINKS, PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC UPDATES BY EMAILING

[DOCTORS@HALTON.CA](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA)