

## 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, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Deepika Lobo, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: January 20, 2023

RE: Rifampin Shortage

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### RIFAMPIN SHORTAGE

- There is an ongoing national shortage of Rifampin 150mg and 300mg capsules indicated for treatment of active tuberculosis (TB) and latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI).
- Adequate inventory levels are expected to be re-established in late March 2023.

### PLEASE PRIORITIZE RIFAMPIN FOR THE FOLLOWING PATIENTS:

- Individuals with active TB disease
- Individuals who have already started a preventive treatment regimen for LTBI that includes Rifampin (e.g., 4RMP)
- Contacts who have LTBI and the source case has an isoniazid-resistant strain of TB
- Contacts who need window prophylaxis pending definitive LTBI testing (e.g., children < 5 years of age, immuno-suppressed/people with HIV)

Defer starting rifampin for any new LTBI cases that are at a moderate or low risk of progressing to active TB disease until the shortage is resolved. Consider prescribing isoniazid as an alternative LTBI treatment.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Considerations for preventative treatment of latent tuberculosis infection \(LTBI\) during a rifampin supply shortage](#), Public Health Ontario
- [Canadian Tuberculosis Standards - 8<sup>th</sup> Edition](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL [DOCTORS@HALTON.CA](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA).