



Marion County
OREGON
Health & Human Services

ALERT

**COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO
PHARMACIES AND
PROVIDERS**

To: Marion County Providers
Fax number:

From: Marion County Health & Human Services
Fax number: (503) 566-2920

Date: **04/11/2022**

Regarding: **Increase in Tuberculosis disease (TB) among persons from the Marshall Islands. Persons from Chuuk, an island in Micronesia, are also disproportionately affected.**

Phone number for follow-up: (503) 588-5611

View this message with clickable links at: bit.ly/MCHealthAlerts

On Tuesday, April 5th, 2022, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) sent the following alert:

Situation

TB disease in persons residing in Marshallese or Chuukese households has been increasing in Oregon since 2015. Most cases are in Marion, Multnomah and Washington Counties. The 2021 incidence of TB disease among Marshallese and Chuukese persons was estimated at 52/100,000 population, a rate more than times 25 times higher than that of Oregonians as a whole. In 2022, Oregon continues to see cases of TB disease among the Marshallese and Chuukese communities.

Recommendations for action

For all symptomatic patients from this region, take the following steps to rule out TB disease:

1. Perform a physical exam
2. Obtain a chest x-ray
3. Collect 3 sputum samples taken at least 8 hours apart in patients with radiographic findings suggestive of TB disease.

Report probable cases within one day of identification to the local public health department where the patient resides.

Obtain clinical consultation by contacting your local public health department or the TB Program, OHA at [503-358-8516](tel:503-358-8516) or heidi.behm@state.or.us.

Symptoms of TB disease in children may be subtle with minimal abnormality on chest x-ray. For clinical consultation, contact Curry International TB Center by calling [877-390-6682](tel:877-390-6682) or email currytbcenter@ucsf.edu. Report probable cases to the local public health department where the patient resides.

We recommend screening all patients from the Pacific Island region for latent TB

infection (LTBI) to prevent future TB disease. Patients who test positive by tuberculin skin test (TST) or interferon-gamma release assay (e.g. QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus or TSPOT) should be ruled out for TB disease as above. Most patients with LTBI, should be offered treatment with a short-course rifampin based regimen (e.g. 4 months daily rifampin or 3 months daily isoniazid/rifampin). Unlike TB disease, LTBI is not reportable.

Unless otherwise noted, feel free to share this HAN Notification with:

- Others within your organization.
- Professionals within your health, preparedness, and response affiliations.

Oregon 24/7 disease reporting: [971-673-1111](tel:971-673-1111)

