



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor  
MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary  
MARK T. BENTON • Assistant Secretary for Public Health  
Division of Public Health

Jason Stout, MD, MHS  
Box 102359  
Duke University Medical  
Center  
Durham, NC 27710

March 16, 2020

**To:** Local Health Department TB Programs  
**From:** Jason Stout, MD, MHS, TB Controller/Medical Director  
**Re:** Video DOT and COVID

As all of you are aware, we are in the midst of an outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that has necessitated large-scale quarantine and restriction of public activity. In the setting of this outbreak, the NC TB Control Program strongly recommends transitioning to video directly observed therapy (video DOT) for active cases in whom it is appropriate. As a reminder, policies and procedures related to video DOT are found in Chapter IX, section W of the North Carolina Tuberculosis Control Manual, which may be accessed at the following link:

[https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/tb/Chapter\\_IX\\_2018\\_09192019.pdf](https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/tb/Chapter_IX_2018_09192019.pdf)

Local health departments that do not have existing video DOT policies may use the guidance in the manual as the basis for performing video DOT, and their providers may order video DOT at their discretion.

Given the potential for further disruption of TB control activities during the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak, I would also recommend reviewing the North Carolina TB Control Program Hurricane/Disaster plan in Chapter IX, section U of the North Carolina Tuberculosis Control Manual (same link as above) and making preliminary plans to ensure that all patients with active TB are able to receive their medications during this difficult time.

As always, I thank you for your efforts on behalf of our patients and public health, particularly during this challenging time.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH; EPI/CD/TB CONTROL

LOCATION: 1200 Front Street Suite 103, Raleigh, NC 27609  
MAILING ADDRESS: 1905 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1905  
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-755-3184 • FAX: 919-733-0084

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER