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

March 16, 2020

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:


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.