



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Section of Epidemiology

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Dear Provider,

Due to a [voluntary recall](#) issued in July 2025 by King Pharmaceuticals LLC (a subsidiary of Pfizer), Alaska is experiencing an ongoing shortage of penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin® L-A). The Alaska Division of Public Health (DPH) requests your support in managing this shortage until supplies stabilize.

- Please consider prioritizing Bicillin® L-A for patients diagnosed with syphilis who are pregnant, regardless of staging and other factors.
- Please prioritize Bicillin® L-A, or administer Lentocilin© (see below), for:
 - All patients (any sex, pregnancy status, or housing status) who have symptoms consistent with primary or secondary syphilis, OR
 - Women of reproductive age who are experiencing homelessness or unstable housing diagnosed with latent syphilis (early latent, late latent, or syphilis of unknown duration), even if they are currently asymptomatic.
- For all other patients diagnosed with syphilis, we recommend treating with Lentocilin© OR doxycycline:
 - Lentocilin© for patients in whom it is appropriate and not contraindicated, as supplies allow.
 - Examples of contraindications include documented IgE-mediated penicillin allergy such as anaphylaxis or angioedema, severe beta-lactam allergy, severe soybean allergy due to the product's soy phospholipid content, lidocaine allergy because the diluent contains lidocaine, and clinical situations in which deep intramuscular injection is unsafe, such as significant bleeding disorders or anticoagulation that cannot be adjusted.
 - If supplies are limited, prioritize Lentocilin© for individuals who are unable or unlikely to complete an oral regimen, such as those who are unstably housed or who have persistent infection despite prior oral therapy.
 - Doxycycline
 - 100 mg orally twice daily for 14 days for early syphilis, OR
 - 100 mg orally twice daily for 28 days for late latent syphilis or syphilis of unknown duration.
 - Patients with a known allergy or contraindication to doxycycline should be evaluated for alternative treatment options.

Additional actions that can help curb the spread of syphilis:

- Test pregnant women for syphilis in any healthcare setting, including emergency departments.
- Presumptively treat pregnant women with a positive rapid point of care test, even if the RPR result is pending.
- Conduct a complete physical exam at the time of testing (including oral, penile, vaginal, anal exams).
- For patients experiencing homelessness or housing instability who are being treated with doxycycline, dispense the full course of therapy at the time of visit (up to 28 days).
- Complete the attached Medical Request Form from Pfizer to request a dose of Bicillin® L-A for a patient in need (allow 24–48 hours for delivery).

- Ask newly diagnosed patients to complete the attached Patient Partner Notification Form; fax the completed form to the Section of Epidemiology to expedite partner services.
- Notify the Section of Epidemiology **within 2 business days**, when a patient tests positive for syphilis and presents with symptoms.

Information about Lentocilin®

Lentocilin® (benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate) is being temporarily imported from Europe under an FDA-authorized shortage-mitigation program and is available for the treatment of syphilis during the Bicillin® L-A shortage. Lentocilin® is considered clinically equivalent to Bicillin® L-A for syphilis treatment; however, it is not FDA-approved, and its labeling and administration instructions differ (e.g., deep intramuscular injection only). Please review preparation and administration guidance before use.

- If your facility is interested in purchasing Lentocilin®, the US vendor on the [FDA Drug Shortages website](#) is:
 - Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company: 682-428-8081.
- Lentocilin® is significantly less expensive than Bicillin® L-A (non-340B pricing). The Anchorage Health Department has successfully ordered from this vendor and received shipments within 2–3 days.
- [FDA's temporary importation authorization for Lentocilin®](#) is in effect until the Bicillin® L-A shortage is resolved.
- Additional pertinent links are listed below:
 - [CDC](#)
 - [Atral](#)
 - [CIDRAP](#)
 - [AAP](#)

Thank you for your commitment to the health of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Joe McLaughlin, MD, MPH
Chief, Alaska Section of Epidemiology



Robert Lawrence, MD, MA
Chief Medical Officer, DOH