

Immigration Exam - Patient Information Sheet

What is the purpose of the Immigration Medical Examination?

The purpose of the medical examination is to identify applicants with inadmissible health-related conditions for the Department of State (DOS) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The health-related grounds for inadmissibility include persons who have a communicable disease of public health significance, who fail to present documentation of having received vaccination against vaccine-preventable diseases, who have or have had a physical or mental disorder with associated harmful behavior, or who are a drug abuser or an addict.

What does an Immigration Medical Examination entail?

The medical examination procedure consists of a physical examination, an evaluation (skin test/chest x-ray examination) for tuberculosis, and blood test for syphilis. The vaccination requirements include vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

What vaccines/boosters are required for immigrants and those applying for adjustment of status in the United States?

As part of the medical examination for immigration, all immigrants are required to have an assessment for the following vaccine-preventable diseases when age appropriate: mumps, measles, rubella, polio, tetanus and diphtheria toxoids, pertussis, *Haemophilus influenzae* type B, rotavirus, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, meningococcal disease, varicella, influenza, and *pneumococcal pneumonia*. Persons already in the United States applying for adjustment of status for permanent residency, including refugees, are also required to be assessed for these vaccine-preventable diseases.

Do all vaccine series have to be completed before vaccination requirements are fulfilled?

For vaccines requiring a series, only a single dose is required for immigration purposes. However, the Civil Surgeon should check the "insufficient time interval" box on the I-693 Form, and also advise the applicant to complete the series in the future.

What should I bring to the exam?

In preparation for the medical examination, you should gather the following:

- A list of what vaccinations you have already had.
- For anyone with mental retardation or learning disabilities, a report of their condition and any special educational or supervision requirements.
- If you've had a previous positive skin test for tuberculosis (TB) or positive quantiferon, a certificate from your doctor giving the circumstances of the positive test result, indicating any treatment prescribed and how long it lasted. If you have ever been diagnosed with TB, you must present a written certification, signed by your doctor, proving that you were adequately treated. The certificate must include dates and types of medications you took. If you have ever had an abnormal chest X-

ray, borrow the last X-ray films taken and bring them to your medical exam. The actual films, not the typed reports, may be required.

- If you have had syphilis, a written certificate, signed by a doctor or public health official, proving that you were adequately treated. If you have ever had a positive VDRL or other blood test for syphilis, and were not treated, you must bring a written explanation signed your doctor.
 - If you have any history of harmful or violent behavior resulting in injury to people or animals, or harm to inanimate objects, information that will allow the doctor to determine whether the behavior was related to a psychiatric or medical problem, or to drug or alcohol use. Harmful behavior includes attempted suicide or self-harm, no matter how minor in nature.
 - If you have been treated or hospitalized for psychiatric or mental illness, or alcohol or drug abuse, written certification including the diagnosis, length of treatment, and your prognosis.
 - If you are being treated for a chronic medical condition or taking medication on a regular basis, be ready to explain your condition(s) and give the names of the medications. You might want to prepare a list.
 - If you're adjusting status in the United States, a copy of Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record, with the top part filled in by you but not signed.
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- Your passport and government ID- if you do not have a passport, please contact your embassy to obtain one