

Questions & Answers

The Immigration Medical Exam



Can I "fail" the immigration medical exam?

It's possible but very unlikely. Most applicants have no issues as long as they fulfill all of their vaccine and testing requirements. Even if your lab results show that you are positive for syphilis or gonorrhea, you can still "pass" as long as you receive the recommended treatment.



I completed the medical exam once before. Do I need to repeat everything I did last time?

The civil surgeon will need to re-test you for tuberculosis, gonorrhea and syphilis as well as perform a new physical assessment. Most adults will still be considered up to date on their vaccines, but if your exam takes place between October and March, you will need to get the flu shot.



I arrived on a spouse visa (K/V) and did a medical exam abroad. Should I still complete Form I-693?

If you were seen by a panel physician outside the US in the last year, you will likely only need a vaccination assessment. The civil surgeon will still fill out Form I-693 but s/he would not order lab testing or perform a physical examination. The only requirement is that you demonstrate that you are up to date on all vaccines.



How and when do I submit Form I-693?

The first option is to send Form I-693 along with your initial adjustment of status application, making sure that you complete the medical exam no more than 60 days prior to your submission.

The second option is to send your initial application without Form I-693 and wait for the USCIS to send you a letter requesting it. They'll let you know whether to mail it back or bring it to the in-person interview.



Will I be drug tested by the civil surgeon?

Probably not. The only reason that you might be asked to undergo drug testing is if the civil surgeon has reason to suspect that you suffer from a substance abuse disorder.



Am I absolutely required to get vaccinated?

Personal preference: In the case of certain diseases (i.e. measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella), you are allowed to demonstrate proof of immunity via lab testing rather than getting the the vaccination. However, this option is not available for all diseases.

Medical contraindication: If you have documentation of a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of a certain vaccine, you would not be required to get the next dose in that series. Pregnant women are exempt from receiving the MMR and varicella vaccines.

Moral/religious conviction: If your beliefs prevent your from receiving vaccines, you may apply for a waiver by filing USCIS Form I-601 at a cost of \$930. The USCIS officer reviewing your case will determine whether or not to accept the waiver.



Should I expect to undergo a chest x-ray?

A chest x-ray is not a universal component of the immigration medical exam; it is only required if you show signs or symptoms of tuberculosis, are known to have HIV, or if your tuberculosis screening result is positive (~5% of applicants in our experience).



I had lab testing done at my doctor's office. Can those results be used for my exam?

The civil surgeon is required to order screenings for tuberculosis, gonorrhea and syphilis, even if you recently had those tests done elsewhere. That said, you should still bring any lab results you have, especially ones which correspond to abnormal health conditions or show immunity to vaccine-preventable diseases.

This FAQ has been provided as a quick reference and is not meant to fully encompass each applicant's unique circumstances. For questions about your particular case, please contact our client service line at **(800) 339-9556**.