



## **Information Concerning the Medical Examinations and Vaccines**

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The Immigration and Nationality Act requires that all immigrant visa applicants and certain nonimmigrant visa applicants, regardless of age, undergo a medical examination before receiving a visa.

The doctors selected by the Consular Section are the only doctors authorized to conduct medical examinations for visa applicants. Adults and children should appear for their exam as soon as they receive the appointment letter.

The average cost of the medical exam is US\$170.00 for each adult examined, and US\$70.00 for each child under age 15. This amount includes X-rays, blood tests and the medical examination itself. If the examining physician considers that other tests are necessary, you must pay for these separately. Children under 15 years of age do not need to have X-rays taken nor blood tests conducted, unless the doctor considers them necessary.

Do not fast before your medical examination. You should eat normally. In addition, if you are taking any medication, you should continue to take it normally. During the medical exam, it is important to give complete and honest answers to all of the questions asked by the clinic staff. If, during the course of your visa interview, the Consulate discovers you left out or misrepresented medical information, you will be required to schedule and pay for a new medical exam. If you have ever had any disease or serious injury, it will be useful for you to take any relevant X-rays or medical reports to the clinic with you.

The clinic will send the examination report directly to the Consular Section. If you are given your medical exam to carry to the Consulate, DO NOT open the sealed envelope. If you open the medical exam, you will be required to schedule and pay for a new medical exam.

### **Vaccines**

United States Immigration Law now requires Immigrant Visa Applicants to obtain certain vaccinations prior to the issuance of an immigrant visa. Panel physicians who conduct medical examinations on behalf of immigrant visa applicants are required to verify that immigrant visa applicants have met vaccination requirements.

In order to assist the panel physician, applicants should bring with them any available vaccination records. If there is no vaccination record, the panel physician will work with the applicants to determine which vaccinations you may need to meet the requirement.

The panel physician will determine which of the vaccinations are medically appropriate for you, given your age, medical history and current medical condition. The cost of your vaccines will depend upon the type of vaccination(s), which you may be missing. Generally the cost varies from \$15 to \$165 dollars per vaccine. The vaccination fee is separate and apart from the cost of your required medical examination.

Consulate employees are not authorized to give information in reference to vaccination requirements to the general public. The only authorized agencies to give this information are the panel physicians.

Listed below are vaccines you may be required to have.

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Rotavirus
- Haemophilus influenzae type b
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal
- Varicella
- Pneumococcal
- Influenza

### **Other Frequently Asked Questions regarding the medical exam:**

#### **What is the validity of the medical examination?**

- Medical examinations are generally valid for 12 months.

#### **Will chest x-rays be required?**

- Children younger than 15 years old will not need a chest X-ray or serological test unless required by the doctor, but will instead undergo a Tuberculin Skin Test.
- According to the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), chest X-rays for pregnant women are not dangerous if taken with the proper shielding.
- If you have had previous X-rays, please bring them along for a comparative study.

#### **What should I bring to my medical examination?**

For each member of your family who plans to accompany you to the United States:

- Appointment letter sent by the National Visa Center or an e-mail confirmation from the Visa Information and Appointment Service. Appropriate medical examination fee.
- Passport (valid for at least 6 months) or photocopy
- One color photograph

**What happens after I have my medical examination?**

- The medical report, passport and visa pictures are submitted by the clinic to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Only the chest x-ray film and immunization form are given to the applicants.
- The medical examination usually takes two to three working days to process, but can extend up to a few months if there are required tests that need to be completed.