

## **Procedures for the Medical Examination of Immigrants to Iceland**

1. Applicants for a residence permit coming from Central and South America, including Mexico, non-EEA European countries, Asia or Africa must undergo a medical examination with respect to infectious diseases. If the applicant, in the opinion of a physician, has a valid medical certificate from abroad, cf. Item 2, which has been issued less than three months before, the applicant concerned does not have to undergo a medical examination. People coming from the EEA, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, the USA, Canada and Israel do not have to submit such a medical certificate.
2. A medical examination refers to:
  - a) A general examination that indicates the health status of the applicant. It shall include an investigation into what vaccinations the applicant has received. In case vaccinations prove to be deficient the applicant shall be offered vaccinations in compliance with the National Childhood Vaccination Programme practised in Iceland. If a notifiable disease is diagnosed, cf. Regulations No. 129/1999, the treatment and monitoring of the applicant shall be performed in consultation with the out-patient department responsible for taking care of such diseases, cf. Regulations No. 414/2007.
  - b) Tuberculosis: A tuberculin skin test shall be performed on applicants 35 years and younger. If the skin test indicates a tuberculosis infection, those over 35 years of age must have a lung x-ray. If the applicant intends to stay in Iceland for less than one year it is permitted to limit the tuberculosis examination to a lung x-ray, cf. Item 5.
  - c) Gastrointestinal infections: A faecal examination (culture and microscope examinations) shall be conducted on those who have or have had symptoms from the gastrointestinal tract. A notifiable infection (salmonellosis, “shigellosis”, campylobacteriosis and giardiasis) shall be specially targeted. Such an examination shall be conducted on all children under the age of six years, irrespective of any symptoms.
  - d) Hepatitis B: Screening for hepatitis B shall be conducted unless the applicant in question intends to stay less than one year in the country, cf. Item 5.
  - e) HIV: Screening for HIV shall be conducted unless the applicant in question intends to stay less than one year in the country, cf. Item 5.
  - f) Sexually transmitted diseases: Applicants with symptoms or indications of a sexually transmitted disease must undergo an examination. A syphilis test by means of antibody testing shall be conducted unless the applicant in question intends to stay less than one year in the country, cf. Item 5.

3. A medical examination applies to any communicable disease that is health-threatening in the region from which the applicant departed.

The examination shall be performed in accordance with a decision made by the Chief Epidemiologist for Iceland, following a notification of the health threat, cf. Art. 14 of Act No. 19/1997 and the International Health Regulation (2005) of the World Health Organization.

4. Children who have moved to Iceland from regions where tuberculosis is endemic (cf. Items 1 and 2 b, and Appendix 2) must undergo a tuberculin skin test in connection with their application for a residence permit on arrival in Iceland. When these children commence their schooling it must be ascertained that they have undergone a medical examination, cf. Item 2, including a tuberculin skin test in connection with an application for a residence permit. If such an examination has not already taken place it shall be performed at the out-patient department responsible for taking care of notifiable communicable diseases, cf. Regulations No. 129/1999 and No. 414/2007. The monitoring of medical examinations of these children shall be ensured within the primary health care service or at an out-patient department responsible for taking care of those diseases.

In case a medical examination, including a tuberculin skin test, is undertaken outside the capital area its performance shall be made in consultation with the out-patient department responsible for taking care of notifiable communicable diseases, cf. Regulations No. 129/1999 and No. 414/2007.

5. A medical examination relating to a temporary residence and employment permit, education or au-pair engagement:
  - a) Anyone who applies for a residence and employment permit because of temporary employment in Iceland (up to one year), cf. item 1, shall undergo a medical examination in order to fulfil statutory requirements concerning a satisfactory medical certificate.
  - b) The medical examination refers to a general medical examination. A tuberculosis examination involving a lung x-ray shall be conducted, if the applicant in question has stayed for more one year during the past ten years in regions where tuberculosis is endemic, cf. the relevant clauses of Appendix 2.
  - c) Should a medical examination reveal that the applicant concerned may have a notifiable communicable disease he/she must undergo a special examination in order to confirm or exclude the diagnosis.
  - d) The countries where tuberculosis is endemic are listed in Annex 2 to these Procedures. The list is based on tuberculosis notifications by the member states of the World Health Organization (WHO Report 2006).
6. Fees for medical examinations conducted in relation to an application for residence and employment permits and in accordance with the Procedures set out by the Chief Epidemiologist shall be paid by the employer or the applicant for a

residence or employment permit, cf. Art. 10 of Regulations No. 414/2007. Should the medical examination reveal a need for further specified tests, the person concerned or his/her health insurance scheme will pay the costs of any health problems that may be diagnosed during the first six months of residence in Iceland. A medical examination specifically requested by the employer shall be paid by the employer.

7. Physician's patient reports on the examination and tests conducted on adults residing in or outside the capital area shall be sent to and stored at the Centre for Communicable Disease Control at the Capital Area Primary Health Care. Physician's patient reports on children shall be sent to and stored at the Out-patient Department of the Children's Hospital at the Landspítali University Hospital.
8. These Procedures are issued on the basis of Regulations No. 414/2007.

## Annex 1

EEA Countries and Switzerland.

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria (from 1 January 2012)
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania (from 1 January 2012)
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

## Appendix 2

An appendix to *Procedures on the Medical Examination of Immigrants to Iceland*, relating to temporary residence and employment permits, education and au-pair engagement, coming from regions that are at special risk because of endemic, serious communicable diseases. The Procedures apply to the following countries that are classified according to WHO regional divisions.

Africa	The Americas	Europe	Eastern Mediterranean	South-East Asia	Western Pacific
Algeria	Argentina	Albania	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Brunei Darussalam
Angola	Bahamas	Armenia	Bahrain	Bhutan	Philippines
Benin	Belize	Azerbaijan	Djibouti	DPR Korea	Fiji
Botswana	Bolivia	Belarus	Egypt	India	French Polynesia
Burkina Faso	Brazil	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Iran	Indonesia	Guam
Burundi	Chile	Croatia	Iraq	Maldives	Japan
Cameroon	Costa Rica	Georgia	Kuwait	Myanmar	Cambodia
Cape Verde	Dominican Republic	Hungary	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Nepal	China
Central African Republic	Dominica	Kazakhstan	Morocco	Sri Lanka	China, Hong Kong SAR
Chad	Ecuador	Kosovo	Pakistan	Thailand	China, Macao SAR
Congo	El Salvador	Kyrgyzstan	Qatar	Timor-Leste	Kiribati
Côte d'Ivoire	Guatemala	Republic of Moldova	Somalia		Lao PDR
DR Congo	Guyana	Russian Federation	Sudan		Malaysia
Ethiopia	Haiti	Serbia & Montenegro	Syrian Arab Republic		Marshall Islands
Equatorial Guinea	Honduras	Tajikistan	Tunisia		Micronesia
Eritrea	Colombia	TFYR Macedonia	Yemen		Mongolia
Gabon	Nicaragua	Turkey			Nauru
Gambia	Panama	Turkmenistan			Northern Mariana Is
Ghana	Paraguay	Ukraine			New Caledonia
Guinea	Peru	Uzbekistan			Palau
Guinea-Bissau	Suriname				Papua New Guinea
Kenya	Uruguay				Samoa
Lesotho	Venezuela				Singapore
Liberia					Solomon Islands
Madagascar					Rep. Korea
Malawi					Tokelau
Mali					Tonga
Mauritania					Tuvalu
Mozambique					Vanuatu
Namibia					Viet Nam
Niger					Wallis & Futuna Is
Nigeria					
Rwanda					
Sao Tome & Principe					
Senegal					
Seychelles					
Sierra Leone					
South Africa					
Swaziland					
Togo					
Uganda					
UR Tanzania					
Zambia					
Zimbabwe					