



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

1. In these Procedures applicants for a residence permit refer to those who apply for a residence permit, residence card for EES-EFTA family member or for international protection, residence permit for relatives as well as to quota refugees, cf. Act on Foreigners, No. 80/2016.
2. Applicants for a residence permit coming from Central and South America, including Mexico, non-European Economic Area (EEA) countries, Asia or Africa must undergo a medical examination with respect to infectious diseases. If the applicant has a valid medical certificate from abroad that meets these Procedures in the opinion of a physician and its date of issue is less than three months old, the applicant concerned does not have to undergo a medical examination, cf. item 4 below. Applicants coming from the EEA, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Switzerland, the USA, Canada and Israel do not have to undergo such a medical examination. *Only those individuals who are leaving the country within eight weeks after arrival can be exempted from the examinations listed in item 4 provided they have no symptoms that may indicate infectious disease.*
3. Physicians licenced in Iceland can perform a medical examination according to these Procedures. When the medical examination is completed the physicians shall submit to the Directorate of Immigration a confirmation that a satisfactory medical examination has taken place.
4. A medical examination refers to:
  - a) **A general examination** that indicates the health status of the applicant for a residence permit. 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 Vaccination Programme practised in Iceland. If a notifiable disease is diagnosed, cf. [Regulation on reporting of communicable diseases and agents posing a threat to public health, No. 221/2012](#), it is recommended that the treatment and monitoring of the applicant be performed in consultation with the out-patient departments responsible for taking care of such diseases, cf. Regulations on measures for health security and communicable disease control and prevention, No. 817/2012.
  - b) **Tuberculosis:** A tuberculin skin test shall be performed on children, pregnant women, and on those 35 years and younger. In case the tuberculin skin test indicates a tuberculosis infection a lung x-ray shall be taken. In those over 35 years of age only a lung x-ray is required.
  - 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 reportable 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 and C:** Screening for hepatitis B and C shall be conducted.
  - e) **HIV:** Screening for HIV shall be conducted.
  - 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 on all applicants.
5. A medical examination can also apply to other health related factors that pose a health threat in the region from which the applicant departed. In such cases, a further examination shall be conducted according to a decision made by the Chief Epidemiologist.
  6. A medical examination and other investigations according to these Procedures shall be made in one and the same visit if possible.
  7. When children falling under these Procedures commence their schooling it must be ascertained that they have undergone a medical examination according to these Procedures.
  8. In case a medical examination that includes a tuberculin skin test is undertaken outside the capital area it shall be performed in consultation with the out-patient department responsible for taking care of reportable communicable diseases.
  9. Fees for medical examinations conducted in relation to an application for residence and employment permits and in accordance with the present Procedures shall be paid by the [applicant's] employer or the applicant for a residence or employment permit. Should the medical examination reveal a need for further specified tests, the applicant 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.

Medical examinations conducted on applicants for international protection and on quota refugees shall be free of charge for these individuals as well as the cost of vaccines falling under the National Vaccination Programme.

It is recommended that decisions on treatment and further monitoring of these patients will be taken in consultation with the out-patient departments responsible for taking care of communicable diseases, cf. Art. 1 of Regulation on measures for health security and communicable disease control and prevention, No. 817/2012. Costs for reportable diseases shall be free of charge to the individual, cf. Art. 11 of the same Regulation.
  10. These Procedures are issued on the basis of the Act on Health Security and Communicable Disease Control, No. 19/1997, and Regulation on measures for health security and communicable disease control and prevention, No. 817/2012, and replace older Procedures issued 16 September 2015.

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Chief Epidemiologist for Iceland