

# what medical exam for green card

**What medical exam for green card** applicants need to undergo is a critical step in the immigration process. This medical examination is required by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to ensure that applicants are not inadmissible to the United States due to health-related issues. The exam is performed by designated civil surgeons and is a vital part of the green card application process, as it assesses the medical history and physical condition of the applicant. In this article, we will delve into the details of the medical exam required for green card applicants, what to expect, and how to prepare for it.

## Understanding the Purpose of the Medical Exam

The medical exam for a green card serves several purposes:

- To identify any communicable diseases that could pose a public health risk.
- To assess vaccination status and ensure compliance with U.S. vaccination requirements.
- To evaluate the applicant's mental health and any potential issues that may affect their ability to live in the U.S.
- To determine if there are any medical conditions that might render the applicant inadmissible due to public health concerns.

## Who Needs to Undergo the Medical Exam?

Not every individual needs to undergo the medical exam; it is specifically required for:

- Individuals applying for a green card from within the United States through the adjustment of status process.
- Individuals applying for an immigrant visa from outside the United States.

Additionally, individuals seeking certain non-immigrant visas may also need to complete a medical

examination if their circumstances warrant it.

## **What to Expect During the Medical Exam**

The medical examination for a green card typically includes the following components:

### **1. Medical History Review**

The civil surgeon will begin by reviewing your medical history. Be prepared to discuss:

- Your past medical conditions.
- Any medications you are currently taking.
- Your vaccination history.

### **2. Physical Examination**

The physical exam usually involves:

- Weight and height measurement.
- Vital signs assessment, including blood pressure and heart rate.
- Examination of the eyes, ears, nose, and throat.
- Listening to the heart and lungs.
- Abdominal examination.
- Examining the skin for any abnormalities.

### 3. Laboratory Tests

Depending on your age and health history, you may need to undergo several laboratory tests, including:

- Blood tests for communicable diseases such as syphilis.
- Urine tests to check for drugs or other substances.
- X-rays to screen for tuberculosis (TB) for applicants over 15 years of age.

### 4. Vaccination Requirements

A crucial aspect of the medical exam is ensuring that you meet the vaccination requirements set by the CDC. The required vaccinations typically include:

- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Influenza (seasonal)
- Hepatitis B
- Polio

It's important to bring your vaccination records to the exam, as the civil surgeon will need to verify your immunization history.

## How to Prepare for the Medical Exam

Proper preparation can help ensure a smooth medical exam experience. Here are some steps to take:

1. **Schedule an Appointment:** Find a USCIS-approved civil surgeon in your area and schedule your appointment well in advance of your green card application.
2. **Gather Documentation:** Bring your passport, any prior medical records, vaccination records, and any other relevant documents.
3. **Know Your Medical History:** Be ready to discuss your medical history openly and honestly, including any past illnesses, surgeries, or conditions.
4. **Be Honest About Your Health:** If you have any health concerns or conditions, inform the civil surgeon during your examination.
5. **Follow Any Pre-Exam Instructions:** If the civil surgeon provides specific instructions, such as fasting before blood tests, be sure to follow them.

## What Happens After the Medical Exam?

Once you have completed the medical exam, the civil surgeon will provide you with a sealed envelope containing the results. It is essential to keep this envelope unopened, as USCIS requires it to be submitted with your green card application.

You will also receive a copy of the vaccination record and any other necessary documentation for your records. If any additional tests are required, the civil surgeon will inform you and guide you on the next steps.

## Common Concerns About the Medical Exam

Many applicants have questions and concerns regarding the medical exam. Here are some common issues:

### 1. What if I Have a Medical Condition?

If you have a pre-existing medical condition, it doesn't necessarily mean you will be denied a green card. However, certain conditions may require additional evaluation. It's best to discuss these with your civil surgeon.

## **2. What if I Don't Have All the Required Vaccinations?**

If you lack required vaccinations, the civil surgeon can administer them during your appointment, or you may be asked to get them before your green card application is processed.

## **3. How Long Does the Medical Exam Take?**

The entire process can take anywhere from 30 minutes to a couple of hours, depending on the complexity of your medical history and any tests that may need to be conducted.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, the medical exam for green card applicants is a vital component of the immigration process. Understanding what the exam entails, how to prepare for it, and what to expect can help alleviate any anxiety associated with this requirement. By following the guidelines and ensuring that you have all necessary documentation, you can navigate this step smoothly and confidently as you work towards obtaining your green card.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the purpose of the medical exam for a green card application?**

The medical exam is conducted to ensure that applicants do not have any communicable diseases or medical conditions that could pose a public health risk or make them inadmissible to the United States.

### **Who is qualified to perform the medical exam for a green card?**

The medical exam must be conducted by a designated civil surgeon or panel physician who is authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

### **What vaccinations are required for the green card medical exam?**

Applicants are required to be up-to-date on certain vaccinations, including but not limited to measles, mumps, rubella, polio, and hepatitis B, depending on age and medical history.

## How long is the medical exam valid for a green card application?

The results of the medical exam are generally valid for up to two years, but they must be submitted as part of the green card application process while it is still valid.

## What should I bring to the medical exam for my green card?

You should bring a government-issued ID, vaccination records, and any relevant medical history. It's also advisable to bring Form I-693, which is the Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record.

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