

Immigration Required Testing Information

HIV Testing

HIV testing of all applicants 15 years old or older and applicants less than 15 years, if the civil surgeon deems necessary, is required.

A blood test for antibodies to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is required as part of your medical examination. HIV is the virus that causes the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). AIDS is the name given to a group of illnesses that may occur in persons affected with HIV. Infection with HIV causes a defect in a person's natural immunity against disease. This defect leaves infected people vulnerable to serious illnesses that would not usually be a threat to anyone whose immune system was intact. This test is not to diagnose AIDS, but to detect antibodies to the virus.

The result of your test will be provided to an INS officer. Also, it may be necessary to report results to the state or local health authority.

A positive test result may mean that you may not be eligible for adjustment of status. A positive test result could also have other local consequences on your day-to-day activities.

Tuberculosis Testing

All applicants 2 years of age or older are required to have a tuberculin skin test to determine whether the applicant is infected with Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Applicants under the age of 2 years are required to have a tuberculin skin test if there is evidence of contact with a person known to have tuberculosis or if there is other reason to suspect tuberculosis.

The tuberculin skin test will be performed using 5TU of purified protein derivative (PPD) intradermally (in the dermis, a layer of skin). The test must be read by the civil surgeon no sooner than 48 hours after the PPD was given and no later than 72 hours after the PPD was given. A result greater or equal to 5mm of induration will require a chest radiograph (x-ray) (CXR).

If the CXR is suggestive of tuberculosis, the civil surgeon must refer the applicant to the local health department for evaluation and treatment. The applicant must return to the civil surgeon with a copy of the evaluation from the local health department before the examination may be completed. Applicants with a positive result equal or greater than 10mm of induration with a negative or normal CXR will also be referred to the local health department for evaluation and possible treatment.

Syphilis Testing

All applicants 15 years of age or older must be tested for evidence of syphilis. Applicants under the age of 15 years must be tested if there is reason to suspect infection with syphilis. A rapid plasma reagent test (RPR) or venereal disease research laboratory test (VDRL) will be used for screening. A positive screening result will be confirmed with a fluorescent treponemal antibody absorbed test (FTA-ABS). Appropriate treatment must be completed and documented before the medical examination can be completed.

Other Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Hansen's Disease (Leprosy)

The medical history and physical examination will include a search for symptoms or lesions consistent with Hansen's Disease, chancroid, gonorrhea, chlamydia, granuloma inguinale or lymphogranuloma venereum. Further testing will be done as necessary to confirm a suspected diagnosis. Appropriate treatment must be completed and documented before the medical examination can be completed.