



### **Immigrant Medical Certification Process:**

Testing is no longer recommended for latent tuberculosis, syphilis, parasitic infestations or other gastrointestinal infections. As such Mantoux, VDRL and stool tests are no longer required. The screening of immigrants for these diseases is not a cost-effective measure for their prevention. The current Immigrant Medical Screening includes the following to be done by the medical practitioner:

1. Medical History and Physical Examination
2. Chest X-Ray with Radiologist Report (waived for persons under 15 years of age if asymptomatic)
3. CBC, Smac 20, Urinalysis, other testing - depending on past medical history and physician's judgment.

BVI based physicians reviewing overseas medical examinations must verify the authenticity of the overseas examining physician.

A certificate of fitness will then be issued by any locally registered medical practitioner attesting that in accordance with Schedule 4(Regulations(2))b of the Immigration and Passport Regulations revision date 30 June, 2013 that the person is deemed free of any contagion or infectious disease which makes entry in to the Virgin Islands dangerous to the community.

Medical records should be retained by the examining physician and it is not appropriate that these be lodged in the Immigration Department or form part of the Immigration or Labour Department file. Only the medical certificate signed by any duly registered physician in the Virgin Islands should be returned to the Immigration Department as sufficient evidence of "medical clearance".

Persons who receive leave to remain in the Territory and their dependents including minors should be given printed information on registration with NHI and how to seek medical care in the Virgin Islands including routine vaccinations.

### **How to Find the Application Form**

Local and overseas practitioners can now obtain the relevant forms online at the Government of the Virgin Islands' official website at [bvi.gov.vg](http://bvi.gov.vg). The forms are just a click away on the Immigration Department's page under the services section.



**GOVERNMENT OF THE  
VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**For further information, contact:**

### **Ministry of Health and Social Development**

33 Admin Drive  
Second Floor, West Atrium  
Central Administration Building  
Wickhams Cay I, Road Town, Tortola  
British Virgin Islands VG1110

#### **Business Hours:**

Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### **Email:**

[ministryofhealth@gov.vg](mailto:ministryofhealth@gov.vg)

#### **Telephone:**

1(284) 468-2174  
1(284) 468-2282

#### **Fax:**

1(284) 468-4412

### **Immigration Clinic at the Road Town Clinic**

Emergency Area, Old Peebles Hospital

#### **Operating Hours:**

Monday – Thursday  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

#### **Telephone:**

1(284) 852-7681

# Immigration Medical Examinations Examining Physicians

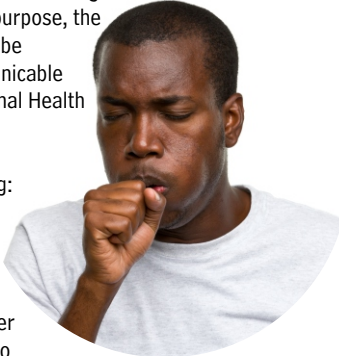


## INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of the Immigration Medical Examination is to verify that in accordance with **Schedule 4 (Regulations(2))b of the Immigration and Passport Regulations revision date 30 June, 2013**, the person is deemed free of any contagion or infectious disease which makes entry in to the Virgin Islands dangerous to the community. For this purpose, the Ministry of Health requires that person be certified free from the following communicable diseases as identified by the International Health Regulations 2005:

1. Tuberculosis
2. Acute febrile illness including:
  - a) Yellow Fever
  - b) Malaria
  - c) West Nile Virus
  - d) Plague
  - e) Viral Haemorrhagic Fever

Information on chronic conditions is also collected by the examining physician for the purpose of adequate referral.



## Medical Conditions and History:

### Mental Issues:

Medical history must include mental or learning disabilities or if any special arrangements for education or supervision are required. In cases where there are mental issues, a referral can be made to the School Psychologist at the Mental Health Unit of the BVI Health Services Authority or any other appropriate psychology service.

Any history of harmful or violent behaviour resulting in injury to self, other persons, animals or property and any other pertinent additional information must be recorded. Where this behavior is linked to any psychiatric, medical drug or alcohol related problem, it must also be recorded. Referrals in these cases can be made to the Mental Health Unit of the BVI Health Services Authority or any private psychiatry service for further assessment and reporting back to the examining physician. In extreme cases, a decision can be made to recommend the denial of entry.

A history of hospitalisation for any psychiatric, mental health or substance abuse problem must also be recorded and information collected. Where the examining physician deems necessary, referral and further assessment at the Mental Health Unit of the BVI Health Services Authority or other competent psychiatric service and reporting back to the examining physician is appropriate.

### Tuberculosis:

A history of treatment for any form of active tuberculosis must be provided, along with documentation certifying that a full course of treatment including which drugs were used and for how long. If any positive history of symptoms suggestive of active Tuberculosis or contact with an active case is provided, this should be investigated in keeping with standard medical practice.

An applicant found positive for tuberculosis should then be treated in accordance with standard World Health Organisation guidelines for the treatment of this disease. Medicals can be cleared subject to on-going treatment compliance.

Mantoux (or other Tuberculin skin test) and Quantiferon are not routinely required unless the applicant has confirmed contact with a case of Tuberculosis.

### Chronic Medical Conditions:

A history of past or present treatment for any chronic medical conditions should be elicited and where possible evidenced by information from the current treating physician. All relevant local referrals for service can be facilitated for the patient.

## The Medical Examination:

Any physician duly registered to practice medicine in the British Virgin Islands may carry out the Medical Examination and complete the report.

Normally, persons under the age of 15 are not required to undergo chest x-rays or blood tests but they must undergo a general physical examination and any necessary vaccination. The medical examination will include a medical history, physical examination and where appropriate, blood tests.

The physical examination will include at a minimum, examination of the eyes, ears, nose, throat, extremities, heart, lungs, abdomen, lymph nodes and skin. The physician will also be required to document medical history. The applicant should therefore discuss their medical history, current conditions, or any other conditions, as well as any medicines being taken.

The immigrant medical examination is intended to screen for certain medical conditions and should not be considered a complete physical examination or be considered to take the place of a complete physical examination. During the physical examination, if health issues are found that require follow up these are not part of the immigration medical examination and may be subject to additional costs. The billing code V70.9 can be used for this service.



### Immunisations:

The immunisation status of all applicants must be reviewed and where appropriate, vaccination facilitated in keeping with the current BVI Immunisation Schedule.