



05

Routes to Family Reunion:

Factsheet (TB (Tuberculosis) testing for UK Immigration)



Appendix Tuberculosis (TB) of the Immigration Rules requires people coming from some countries to show that they do not have active Tuberculosis ("TB") as part of their application to come to the UK.

TB is an infectious disease. It is curable with treatment but it can be very serious. It is also easily transmitted from one person to another by **coughing, sneezing** and **talking** when it is an active form in the lungs or throat.



Who must be screened?

Applicants wishing to come to the UK will need to be screened for TB if:

- You are applying to come and live in the UK for over 6 months; and
- You have lived in one of the countries listed for at least 6 months; and
- You have been in that country for any length of time in the 6 months before applying.



The screening process

The test is generally a **chest X-ray**. Sometimes if the chest x-ray is not clear, you may be asked to attend the clinic on three further occasions to give samples of sputum (coughed up phlegm from the lungs) which is then analysed in a laboratory.

More information about the process is on the next page.



Children

Children under 11 years old are not usually required to have TB screening. They should attend an appointment to be checked by a health professional. There can be circumstances when they are required to undergo a screening and there are strict protocols for how it will be conducted.

Children over 11 years old will undergo the usual chest-xray.



Pregnancy

If you are pregnant, you are not automatically exempt from TB screening. Because chest x-rays can cause problems for pregnant women, there are extra safeguards. These include: an extra protective shield for the X-ray; use of a sputum test instead of a chest x-ray; delaying the screening until after birth.



Screening Clinics

You must attend an approved clinic for the screening. You can find out which clinics are approved by clicking on the country in this list.



Screening costs

You must pay a fee to the clinic to cover the consultation, the X-ray and the certificate. You may have to pay extra for further tests (such as a sputum test).

The clinic fees are in addition to the cost of your visa application and vary from country to country.



What to take to your screening

You will normally need to take:

- Your passport (or another type of identity document);
- 2 recent passport-sized photos;
- The appointment fee (this changes depending on the test centre - sometimes you must pay in advance)

You may need to take your medical records if you have an underlying illness or have previously had TB.



What countries are in the list?

The list currently includes:

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| • Afghanistan | • Bangladesh | • Eritrea | • Ethiopia |
| • India | • Iraq | • Kenya | • Nigeria |
| • Pakistan | • Somalia | • South Sudan | • Sudan |





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Screening Process



Stage 1: Pre-screening

Before your TB screening, you must complete the Informed Consent Form;



Stage 2: Examination

At your appointment you will meet with a health professional for a medical examination.

You should:

- Give the health professional information about any current or past medical problems and if you have relatives/friends who have had TB; and
- Allow the health professional to physically examine you and any children

If the health professional is satisfied that your child aged under 11 years old does not require a chest x-ray, your child will receive a certificate instead.



Stage 3: Chest X-ray

All adults and children over 11 years old must normally have a chest x-ray. During your x-ray you will be asked to:

- Remove your upper clothes (covering your chest and arms); and
- Wear a gown provided by the clinic

You will receive normally your results within 24-hours. If the health professional is happy that your x-ray indicates you do not have active TB, you will be given a certificate.



Stage 4: Sputum test

If the doctor thinks your X-ray shows signs that you may have active TB, you will need to give a sputum sample:

- You will attend the clinic **3 times**
- At each appointment you will give a sample of your **phlegm** from your lungs by coughing; and
- The samples will be sent to a **laboratory** for testing.

You will receive your results after up to **2 months**.

RESULTS



Negative results

If you screen negatively for active TB:

- You will receive a TB certificate that is valid for 6 months;
- You must include this in your visa application; and
- You might be offered a screening test for non-active TB after entering the UK.



Positive results

If you are found to have active TB, the health professional will:

- refer you for a course of **treatment** (antibiotics) which may last up to **6 months**
- **report** your diagnosis to the local, regional or national authorities (depending on what the rules are for the country where you live)
- **report** your diagnosis to the UK health authorities

After you complete your treatment you can be re-screened and if you are clear, you will be issued with a certificate.

A previous diagnosis of TB does not mean you cannot get a visa if you later are confirmed to be free of active TB.

