Medical Surveillance for Tuberculosis (TB)

What is Tuberculosis (TB) Medical Surveillance?

TB Medical Surveillance is a medical assessment for a person who has newly arrived in Canada to check that they do not have active TB disease. This is a requirement by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for everyone (including landed immigrants, visitors staying longer than six months and refugees) entering Canada.

Why was I placed on medical surveillance?

Before you came to Canada, your immigration medical exam showed that you have a history of TB or possible inactive TB infection. You are allowed to come to Canada but you must complete the medical surveillance once you arrive. It is to protect your own health, and the health of your family and the public.

What do I need to do?

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has provided you with instructions to report to your local public health unit with one of the following immigration documents:

- Medical Surveillance Undertaking form (IMM 535) or
- In-Canada Public Health Follow-up letter

If you live in Durham Region (Ajax, Pickering, Whitby, Oshawa, Clarington, Scugog, Brock, and Uxbridge) and you are placed on medical surveillance, you must call the Durham Region Health Department at 905-666-6241 or 1-800-841-2729 to speak with a Public Health Nurse.

You must call the Health Department within 30 days of coming to Canada or upon receiving the In-Canada Follow-up letter.
Medical Surveillance Reporting Process:

1. **Speak to a Public Health Nurse**
   The nurse will ask you for the following:
   - Name
   - Address
   - Phone Number(s)
   - Immigration information
   - Health history or TB history in the past
   If you do not speak English, you may wish to ask someone to help you.

2. **Fax the Immigration Document**
   Fax a copy of the Medical Surveillance Undertaking form (IMM 535) or In-Canada Public Health Follow-up letter to Durham Region Health Department Confidential Fax at 905-666-6215. Or you may bring it to:

   The Regional Municipality of Durham Health Department
   605 Rossland Road East, 2nd Floor
   Whitby, Ontario, L1N 0B2

3. **Receive Letter Package from Durham Region Health Department**
   Durham Region Health Department will mail you a package including the following:
   - Letter to you
   - Letter to your doctor
   - Assessment form to your doctor (Assessment for Tuberculosis)

4. **See a Doctor**
   Bring the letter and the assessment form to a doctor of your choice in Ontario. The doctor will complete a medical exam, order a chest X-ray and if necessary other tests for you.

   After all the tests are done, make sure your doctor faxes all the forms and test results to the Durham Region Health Department Confidential Fax at 905-666-6215. All forms and tests results must be received by the Health Department by the due date noted in your letter.

5. **Review by Public Health Nurse**
   Once all the documents are received by Durham Region Health Department, a nurse will review your record and notify Citizenship and Immigration Canada that you have completed and met the requirements of TB medical surveillance.

6. **Completion of TB Immigration Medical Surveillance**
   You will receive a letter from Durham Region Health Department to confirm that you have complied with the requirements of Citizenship and Immigration of Canada. You should keep this letter with your immigration documents.
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How long does the process take?

The Health Department will provide you with a due date to complete your medical exam. The average time for TB Immigration Medical Surveillance in Durham Region is about six months.

How much does the process cost?

If you have applied for landed immigration or a work permit, you are eligible to apply for the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). The cost of the immigration medical surveillance, including relevant doctor visits, chest X-rays and other necessary tests will then be covered by the OHIP.

For more information about eligibility and applying for OHIP, please call the ServiceOntario toll-free at 1-800-664-8988 or visit the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website at:

To find your nearby ServiceOntario location:
https://www.services.gov.on.ca/locations/start.do?

To see what documents you need when applying your OHIP:
http://www.ontario.ca/health-and-wellness/what-documents-are-required-get-ontario-health-card

Once you have applied for the OHIP, it takes about three months before you receive the OHIP card.

If you are not eligible for OHIP and do not have any insurance coverage, the costs for medical surveillance are your responsibility and are variable.

What if your doctor finds out you have active TB disease?

Being diagnosed with active TB disease does not affect your immigration status in Canada. TB is preventable and treatable with TB medication. A Public Health nurse and your doctor will work closely together with you to decide the best available treatment option for you.
**Why is it important to complete the process?**

Immigration medical surveillance is a requirement by the Citizenship and Immigration Canada. You must show proof that you have completed the requirement before this condition is removed from your immigration file.

If you do not complete your immigration medical surveillance, it may affect your eligibility or delay your application(s) for work extension, student visa, work permit, and Canadian citizenship.

If you leave the country before completing the medical surveillance process, you may be questioned at the border/airport the next time you try to return to Canada.

**What else do I need to know?**

TB is an infectious disease caused by bacteria. It can affect the lungs, bones, kidneys, liver, brain, joints, intestines, skin, lymph nodes and reproductive organs.

If you have any of the following signs and symptoms while you are on medical surveillance, please contact your doctor/health care provider or Durham Region Health Department at 905-666-6241 or 1-800-841-2729 as soon as possible. **Signs and symptoms** such as:

- A cough that last more than 3 weeks
- Coughing up blood
- Chest pain
- Fever
- Chills
- Night sweats
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Tiredness

**For more information about TB**, please visit Durham Region Health Department Tuberculosis (TB) website at [http://www.durham.ca/TB](http://www.durham.ca/TB).

If you change your address or phone number, or if you are planning to travel outside Durham Region and/or Canada, please also notify us by calling Durham Region Health Department at 905-666-6241 or 1-800-2729.