

Migration Health Assessments for Australia-Bound Migrants

All applicants are required to undergo a migration health assessment as part of their visa application process for Australia. In this document, you will find important information related to your upcoming migration health assessment at IOM's Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

IOM SRI LANKA MHAC Contact Information

Address: IBSL BUILDING, NO 80A, ELVITIGALA MAWATHA, COLOMBO 00800, SRI LANKA.

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Opening Hours: 08:00AM – 16:30PM MON-FRI

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The scope of the migration health assessment varies depending on factors such as your visa category, age, gender and current health status. The list below shows some of the procedures that you or your family (if they are applying to migrate with you to Australia) might receive:

- Registration.
- Counselling to explain the health assessment process (at the end of the counselling you will sign an informed consent form).
- *Medical examination*, which may include the following:
 - A review of your medical history and current symptoms.
 - Taking your measurements and vital signs.
 - A detailed physical examination to assess your physical and mental status.
 - A chest X-ray.
 - A *tuberculin skin test (TST)* or Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA – blood test) for tuberculosis.
 - Urine analysis.
 - HIV test (*applicants applying for certain visa categories may also be tested for syphilis, hepatitis B and C*).

Breakdown of Migration Health Assessment Procedures, by Age of Applicant:

< 2 years old	Medical examination
2 – 4 years old	Medical examination; blood or skin test for tuberculosis
5 – 10 years old	Medical examination; urine analysis; blood or skin test for tuberculosis
11 – 14 years old	Medical examination; urine analysis; chest X-ray
≥ 15 years old	Medical examination; urine analysis; chest X-ray; laboratory blood tests

All basic requirements are done on the same day, during the same appointment.

Will I need additional tests or procedures?

Additional tests or treatment may be in order to complete the health assessment and/or to comply with the requirements of the immigration authorities, based on health conditions identified during your examination. In such an event, you will be provided with additional counselling and more information during your appointment.

Will I receive any vaccines?

Immunizations are not currently required as part of the migration health assessment for Australia, unless special arrangements apply (such as immunization in case of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in the country of origin). However, you are strongly encouraged to complete immunizations before you travel to Australia and bring your immunization record with you. If you wish, the IOM doctor can review your record and provide advice on missing vaccinations.

Important Notes

Minors:

Applicants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a **parent or guardian** who can provide consent and make decisions on their behalf.

Pregnancy:

If you are pregnant and undergoing a migration health assessment, you may choose to either get the chest X-ray with a double leaded shielding to protect you and your unborn baby **or** wait to proceed with the migration health assessment until after giving birth.

If you choose to proceed with the chest X-ray, you will be requested to sign an additional consent form.

Tuberculosis (TB):

TB is a contagious bacterial infection that is spread from person to person through tiny droplets in the air. TB can be either:

- (1) **Latent TB:** when you have the bacteria in your body, but you don't have any clinical manifestations. In order to diagnose latent TB, active TB should be ruled out.
- (2) **Active TB:** when you have the bacteria and have clinical, radiological or laboratory manifestations.

You might be asked to undergo further testing if the doctor suspects you have TB. In such an event, you will be provided with additional counselling and more information during your appointment.

You will be requested to provide three (3) sputum samples over 3 consecutive days. These samples are then tested in a laboratory; **it can take up to 8-10 weeks to obtain a result.**

If you are required to complete further testing, your health assessment certificate will be put on hold until the results are received. If you are found to have TB, you will need to successfully complete treatment before resuming the immigration process.

Good news! **TB is treatable** and most people can be cured at home with a few months of oral antibiotics.

What Do I Need to Bring to My Appointment?

Identification:

- National ID card
- Passport (original) A copy of your passport with visa submission confirmation (if your passport is already submitted for visa)
- UNHCR/MHA registration documents if you are a refugee applicant
- Photo ID of the accompanying parent/guardian, if applicant is a minor
- Children under 18 years old will need to bring their original birth certificate, a photocopy of the birth certificate and Vaccination Card/Clinic Book
- Original NIC or valid driving license. (Not mandatory)
- Health Examination List (HAP Letter) with HAP ID

Medical Records:

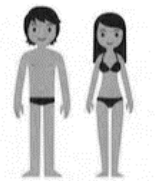
- ▶ Any medical reports on past or current medical conditions.
- ▶ Vaccination records (optional).
- ▶ Child Health and Development Record for children, if available.

Other:

- ▶ Eyeglasses or lenses, if you wear them.
- ▶ Address in country of origin printed.
- ▶ If you pre-paid for your migration health assessment, **please bring a hard copy of the proof of payment.**

Advice for the Migration Health Assessment

- ▶ For your physical examination, you will be asked to remove your clothes and will be provided with a medical gown, but **please keep your underwear on (see image at right)**.
- ▶ You **may request a chaperone** to be present at your physical examination.
- ▶ **Please do not conceal any medical conditions;** deliberate attempts to hide them will be reported to the Australian immigration authorities.
- ▶ For female applicants, **please do not conceal your pregnancy;** being pregnant will have no impact on your immigration prospects.
- ▶ **Please postpone or re-schedule your appointment if you or your child are ill** with a fever or have a rash
- ▶ For female applicants, **please postpone or re-schedule your appointment if you are menstruating,** as it may affect the urine test result.
- ▶ There is **no need to fast** prior to your appointment.



Migration Health Assessment Fees and Payment Information

Fees, by Age of Applicant:

Based on Visa Categorize	Permanent and Provisional Visa Applicants
501	50
501+502	70
501+502+707	75
501+502+707+708+716	90
Special Case 2 : Aged Visitor	60

How to Pay for the Migration Health Assessment:

- Payments should be made at the IOM MHAC on the day of the migration health assessment in Colombo
- Only cash payments are accepted.