Frequently Asked Questions about Tuberculosis (TB) Immigration Medical Surveillance (IMS)

What is Tuberculosis (TB) Immigration Medical Surveillance (IMS)?

Tuberculosis Immigration Medical Surveillance (IMS) is a medical assessment of a person who is newly arrived in Canada to check that they do not have active tuberculosis (TB) disease. Tuberculosis IMS is a requirement of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to enter Canada.

Tuberculosis IMS includes a medical assessment by a doctor and a chest X-ray. The doctor will then complete a form and send it to York Region Community and Health Services Public Health to complete the process. To find out more about the Tuberculosis IMS process, please see the question titled How do I complete the requirements of Tuberculosis IMS?

Why was I told to report to my local public health unit?

If you have been told by CIC to report to your local public health unit, it is because you have been placed on Tuberculosis IMS by CIC.

This means you have to see a doctor for a medical assessment and have a chest X-ray. This is a CIC requirement to enter Canada. You must call York Region Public Health within 30 days of arrival in Canada to have a nurse send you the forms that you need to complete your IMS.

I am already living in Canada. Why was I placed on Tuberculosis IMS?

If you are changing your immigration status (e.g. extending a visitor visa, applying for refugee status or landed status), you are required to have an Immigration Medical Examination (IME) done in Canada. After the IME is reviewed by CIC, you may be placed on Tuberculosis IMS by CIC.
How do I complete the requirements of Tuberculosis IMS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons applying from outside of Canada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Newly arrived York Region residents who are on Tuberculosis IMS and who had their Immigration Medical Examination (IME) done outside of Canada, must call York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675, ext. 76000 within 30 days of your arrival in Canada.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. A York Region Public Health nurse will ask you to provide your name, address, telephone number, immigration information and also ask questions about your health and past history of TB. The nurse may use an interpreter service, or ask your permission to have a family member interpret for you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The nurse will ask you to send a copy of your IMM 535 Medical Surveillance Undertaking form by mail to:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|   • York Region TB Program  
   17250 Yonge Street, Box 147  
   Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1  
   OR  
   • Fax 1-905-895-5450 |
| 4. York Region Public Health will then mail you a letter and a medical form with instructions on how to complete your IMS. You must take this letter and the medical form to a doctor of your choice in Ontario. The doctor will order a chest X-ray and other tests. |
| 5. After the medical examination and the tests are done, make sure you or your doctor fax the completed medical form along with any test results to York Region Public Health at 1-905-895-5450 as instructed on the form. |
| 6. Once this information is received, York Region Public Health will notify Citizenship and Immigration Canada that you have met the requirements of Tuberculosis IMS. |
| 7. You will receive a confirmation letter from York Region Public Health that you have met the requirements of Tuberculosis IMS. Be sure to keep this letter with your immigration documents. |
1. York Region residents who are on Tuberculosis IMS and who had their Immigration Medical Examination (IME) done inside Canada must call York Region Public Health at 1-877-464 9675, ext. 76000 within 30 days of your arrival in Canada.

2. A York Region Public Health nurse will ask you to provide your name, address, telephone number, immigration information and also ask questions about your health and past history of tuberculosis. The nurse may use an interpreter service, or ask your permission to have a family member interpret for you.

3. The nurse will ask you to send a copy of your In-Canada Public Health Medical Surveillance Undertaking form by mail to:

   - York Region TB Program
     17250 Yonge Street, Box 147
     Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

   OR

   - Fax 1-905-895-5450

4. York Region Public Health will request the most recent immigration medical information from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). You will be notified by a York Region Public Health nurse if any further tests are necessary to meet the requirements of CIC.

5. York Region Public Health will notify Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) that you have met the requirements of Tuberculosis IMS.

6. You will receive a confirmation letter from York Region Public Health that you have met the requirements of Tuberculosis IMS. Be sure to keep this letter with your immigration documents.
What if the doctor finds I have active TB disease during the Tuberculosis IMS process?

If the doctor determines you have active TB disease, you will be contacted by York Region Public Health who will work with you and your doctor to ensure you complete correct treatment. **Being diagnosed with active TB disease does not affect your immigration status in Canada.**

I don’t speak English. How will I be able to speak to the TB nurse?

When you call York Region Public Health, they can arrange for a telephone interpreter who speaks your language. You may also have a family member interpret for you, but you must give your permission to the nurse on the telephone in order for this to happen.

How long does the process for Tuberculosis IMS take?

The average time for Tuberculosis IMS is approximately six months.

How much does Tuberculosis IMS cost?

If you already have **landed immigrant status** or a **work permit**, you are eligible to apply for your Ontario health card to be entitled to health care services paid for by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). It may take over three months before you receive your Ontario health card.

Please call the Services Ontario, OHIP INFOline at 1-800-664-8988 or go to the Ontario Health Insurance Plan website at for more information:  

If you have a **visitor visa**, the costs for medical surveillance are your responsibility and are variable. **Approximate costs:**
- Chest X-ray $50
- Doctor appointment $30 to $50

Will Tuberculosis IMS affect my immigration process?

Tuberculosis IMS is a requirement of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and is a condition of your entry to Canada. You must show proof that you have met these requirements before this condition is removed from your immigration file.

If you do not complete your IMS, it may affect your eligibility or delay your application(s) for immigration and Canadian citizenship.

If you leave the country before completing your IMS, you may be questioned at the border/airport the next time you try to return to Canada.
What else do I need to know about Immigration Medical Surveillance?

If you have any signs and symptoms of active TB disease while you are completing your Immigration Medical Surveillance, such as:

- A cough that lasts more than 3 weeks
- Fever
- Chills
- Night sweats
- Weight loss
- Fatigue (tiredness)

please contact your doctor and York Region Public Health (1-877-464-9675, ext. 76000) as soon as possible.

It is also important to tell us if you change your address when you are on Immigration Medical Surveillance. You should also advise us if you are travelling outside York Region and/or Canada for more than a month.

How do I contact Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)?

If you have questions, you can contact CIC by:

Phone: 1-888-242-2100  Fax: 1-613-952-3891

Mail:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Medical Surveillance Notification Unit
219 Laurier Ave. W., 3rd Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 1L1

How do I contact York Region Public Health?

York Region Public Health is available by telephone at 905-830-4444 or 1-877-464-9675, ext. 76000. If a nurse is not available, please leave a message and you will receive a call back the same day or the next available business day.

There is also more information about TB and IMS at www.york.ca/tb.