

FAQ: Medical Exam for U.S. Green Card (Form I-693)

1. What is the purpose of Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record?

Form I-693 is required to ensure you are not inadmissible to the U.S. on public health grounds. The exam must be conducted by a civil surgeon designated by immigration authorities to establish your health status.

2. How can I find an authorized physician for the medical exam?

You can find an authorized physician in the following ways:

- **Applying Abroad:** If applying through a U.S. consulate or embassy, you will receive a list of authorized physicians from the consulate or National Visa Center (NVC) prior to your visa interview. The exam will be conducted by a Department of State (DOS) panel physician.
- **Adjusting Status in the U.S.:** Access the list of authorized physicians through the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website. Contact multiple physicians to compare costs, payment methods, and availability for the immigration medical exam.

To find a Civil Surgeon, please refer to: [Find a Civil Surgeon](#)

3. Are there new vaccination requirements for the medical exam?

As of October 1st, 2021, applicants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as per USCIS policy and CDC guidelines. Proof of vaccination is required before the physician can complete and sign the Form I-693.

4. Are there exceptions to the vaccination requirement?

USCIS may grant waivers if:

- The vaccine is not age appropriate.
- A medical condition contraindicates vaccination.
- The vaccine is not routinely available where authorized physicians practice.
- There is a limited supply, significantly delaying vaccination availability.
- For more details, please refer to the USCIS [policy alert](#).

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5. What should I bring for the medical examination?

You should bring the following documents:

- **Key Documents:** Current edition of Form I-693, a federally approved photo ID (e.g., passport, driver's license), and your Alien Registration Number if applicable.
- **Medical Records:** Bring any relevant records for chronic or serious conditions, and a list of medications you are currently taking.
- **Vaccination Records:** If unavailable, the doctor will conduct tests to determine your vaccination status.
 - Please see a list of required vaccinations [here](#).
 - Please see the full list of required documents [here](#).
- **Payment:** Verify the cost beforehand with the physician's office.
 - Rates vary by civil surgeon;
 - Many civil surgeons do not accept insurance; and
 - Insurance may not cover many portions of an immigration medical examination.
- **COVID-19 Documentation:** Proof of vaccination or evidence of a blanket waiver.
 - COVID-19 vaccination record or evidence of blanket waiver (**New requirement**)
- **Additional Notes:**
 - Non-English Records: Ensure all medical documents are translated into English before your appointment.
 - Language Assistance: Consider bringing an interpreter if you are not fluent in English.
- **For a visual guide to this process,** watch our short video: [Understanding the Medical Examination for U.S. Green Cards](#).

6. What will the doctor examine?

Below is a general overview of how your appointment may go:

- **Initial Steps:** You'll complete and sign Part 1-4 of Form I-693.
- **Examination Process:** The doctor will review your medical history, administer a physical exam, chest X-ray, and blood test (exceptions apply for children under 18 and pregnant women). Required vaccinations will be given if you are missing any.
- **Documentation:** Post-examination, the doctor will seal Form I-693 in an envelope. Request a copy for your records before it's sealed.

IMPORTANT: Do not open the sealed envelope. USCIS will not accept an unsealed Form I-693.

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7. What conditions could make me inadmissible?

- Infectious Diseases: Conditions like active tuberculosis.
- Substance Abuse: Disorders related to alcohol or drug abuse may render you inadmissible, especially if associated with harmful behavior or offenses like DUI/DWI.
- Mental Health: Issues linked to harmful behaviors may necessitate a mental examination.
- See the list of medical conditions that can make you inadmissible [here](#).

8. When and how do I submit the medical exam results?

- **Applying Abroad:** The panel physician may give you a sealed envelope to carry to your visa interview or send it directly to the consulate.
- **Adjusting Status in the U.S.:** You will receive a sealed envelope to file with your Form I-485 application. You can submit it with your initial application or later. If you are working with us on this process (which we hope you are), please mail the sealed envelope to us to file it with your application.

9. How long is the medical exam valid?

As of April 4, 2024, any Form I-693 signed on or after November 1, 2023, does not expire and can be used indefinitely as evidence of medical admissibility.

For additional details, refer to the Policy Alert [here](#).

Note: Even if the original Form I-693 is otherwise valid, USCIS officers have the discretion to request additional evidence or a new Form I-693, should they question inaccuracies regarding the applicant's medical condition.

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