

MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE: Tuberculosis



What is Medical Surveillance?

Medical Surveillance is a medical check-up. It is required for anyone who was assessed as having or possibly having latent tuberculosis (LTBI) on their immigration medical examination (IME). As per immigration/visa requirements, medical surveillance is a “condition of landing” and will be removed from your immigration file once you have met the requirements.

What is the Cost?

The cost of tuberculosis (TB) Medical Surveillance in Ontario is covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). It may also be covered under private insurance. If you do not have insurance, you may wait until you are covered under OHIP. It is expected that you complete your Medical Surveillance assessment within 6 months of landing in Canada.

What do I need to do?

1. Notify Peterborough Public Health

Inform Peterborough Public Health that you are on Medical Surveillance. You can do this by calling 705-743-1000, ext. 131 or by visiting the Peterborough Public Health at 185 King Street, 3rd floor reception desk. Please have your IME number available. Sometimes Peterborough Public Health is notified of your Medical Surveillance requirements through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care before you reach out; in this case we will contact you. Regardless of how public health is notified, you will speak with a Public Health Nurse who will ask you general health questions, provide education about tuberculosis, and provide you with a *Medical Surveillance for TB Physician Reporting* form to be brought to your initial health care provider visit.

2. See a Physician or Nurse Practitioner

Book an appointment with a physician or nurse practitioner. Bring the *Medical Surveillance for TB Physician Reporting* form to your appointment and request the doctor or nurse practitioner complete it. You may be required to complete a chest x-ray and other tests may be ordered if needed. Once you have completed all the tests ordered and when all assessments have been completed, the physician or nurse practitioner will fax the completed form to Peterborough Public Health.

3. Talk with Peterborough Public Health

Once Peterborough Public Health has received your test results and the completed form from your health care provider, a public Health Nurse will review and be in contact with you to discuss next steps. If no further follow-up is needed, the nurse will notify Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) that you have met the requirements of Medical Surveillance, and your file will be closed. If more follow-up is needed, you will be advised of the next steps at this time.

Will being diagnosed with TB or LTBI affect my immigration status?

No, your immigration status will not be affected by your TB or LTBI results.

What if I do not complete TB Medical Surveillance?

If you do not complete TB Medical Surveillance, it may impact your current and/or future immigration applications.

What if I think I have Active TB now?

If you develop signs and symptoms of active TB before you have your TB Medical Surveillance check-up, speak to a doctor or Nurse Practitioner right away, then notify Peterborough Public Health at 705-743-1000, ext. 131.

Signs and Symptoms of Active TB

- Bad Cough (*lasting 3+ weeks*)
- Chest pain
- Unintentional weight loss
- Night sweats
- Fatigue and weakness
- Fever
- Chills
- Loss of appetite