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Immigration Letter

We hope this document serves as a helpful resource for navigating the I-693 (Immigration) physical, which must be performed by a designated doctor called a civil surgeon. Please review this document in its entirety before contacting our office as the rules and requirements for this exam are very specific and many frequently asked questions are answered within. Along with this document you will receive **the first 2 pages of the I-693** as well as a **Review of Systems (ROS)** documents which you should fill out and email (staff@champlainmedical.com) or fax (802-448-1414) back to us along with any other records you may have. To schedule your appointment, we will require a credit card consent to put on file for \$100.00 per person. This is not a charge or deposit, it will allow us to charge you a fee of \$100 if you fail to show up to your scheduled appointment or if you cancel without a notice of at least 48 hours.

Update on April 4th, 2024: The USCIS has announced there is no longer an expiration date for the completed I-693 physical/document, so long as it was signed on April 1st, 2023 or later and the applicant/patient is healthy. <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/policy-manual-updates/20240404-I-693Validity.pdf>

Prior to this update, the I-693 would expire after 2 years, or it would expire after 4 years if a form I-485 was submitted no more than 60 days after the I-693 physical exam was done. <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-temporarily-extending-validity-period-of-form-i-693>

Although it is no longer required, we still recommend that you submit a form I-485 within 60 days of your immigration physical. If you are working with a lawyer or legal team you should check in with them, as our clinic is only responsible for ensuring the completion of the I-693 physical requirements as outlined by USCIS and the CDC. As a part of this update, the civil surgeon is required to report certain medical data to the CDC and USCIS.

The required laboratory tests and immunizations you will need depend on your age. There is a helpful table to figure out what immunizations you will need included on the page below. This chart, along with more detailed information can be found on the CDC website. The pricing for the required immunizations and lab testing offered by our clinic are also listed on the following pages.

Vaccines by applicant age	Birth– 1 month	2–11 months	12 months–6 years	7–10 years	11–17 years	18–64 years	≥ 65 years
DTP/DTaP/DT	NO	YES	No				
Td/Tdap	NO			Sometimes*	YES, substitute 1-time dose of Tdap for Td booster; then boost with Td or Tdap every 10 years		
Polio** (IPV/OPV)	NO	YES				NO	
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella	NO		YES, if born in 1957 or later				NO
Rotavirus***	NO	YES 6 weeks through 8 months	NO				
Hib	NO	YES 2 through 59 months old		NO			
Hepatitis A	NO		YES 12 months through 18 years old			NO	
Hepatitis B	YES, through 59 years old						NO
Meningococcal (MenACWY)	NO				Yes 11 through 18 years old		NO
Varicella	NO		YES				
Pneumococcal	NO	YES, 2 through 59 months old (administer PCV)		NO			One dose PCV15 followed by PPSV23 or one dose PCV20
Influenza	NO, if less than six months old		YES, ≥ 6 months (annually when flu vaccine is available in country of exam)				
COVID-19	See the COVID-19 Technical Instructions for the details of this requirement.						



- Tdap (tetanus) - \$20 - within the last 10 years.
- Hepatitis B - \$20 – Provide us with any records you may have. Series of 3 shots, given at: 0, 1-2 months, 4-6 months.
- MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) - \$20 – Provide us with any records you may have. High risk patients may require a series of 2 given at: 0, 4 weeks.
- Varicella (also known as Chicken Pox) - \$20 – Provide us with any records you may have. Adult series of 2 at: 0, 4-8 weeks.
- Influenza (Flu) - \$34 – Required whenever it is routinely available in the area.
- Covid-19 - \$20 - Required for patients 6 months and older. As of 11/03/2023, you must receive at least 1 dose of an updated (2023-2024) Covid-19 immunization. In other words, if your Covid-19 shot is from before 2023, you will need a booster. Provide us with any records you have.

Required (Adult) Labs - \$150 total: Anyone over the age of 2 years old will be required to have a blood test checking for tuberculosis and anyone between the ages of 18-44 will also need to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases. According to the CDC and USCIS, all required tests (listed below) will only be accepted if they are ordered by the civil surgeon and collected during the physical exam. Furthermore, they must be performed by the civil surgeon's designated laboratory and any outside test results cannot be accepted. The physical exam and lab testing are essentially a snapshot in time of your health, so the CDC and USCIS won't accept test results taken outside of the snapshot. This restriction does not pertain to titer results or immunization records.

- Gonorrhea/Chlamydia - \$20 - This is a urine test required for applicants between the ages of 18-24 years.
- Syphilis - \$20 - Blood test required for patients between the ages of 18-44 years.
- Tuberculosis - \$85 - Blood test required for all patients over 2 years old. This test is called a **QuantIFERON** or **IGRA** test. Tuberculosis is commonly screened by a skin test called a PPD, which is not accepted.
- Venipuncture - \$25 – This is the charge for the service of having your blood drawn by our staff.

Titers: A titer is a blood test used to check for certain antibodies and is a useful tool if you have immunity but cannot provide any record of it. If, for instance, you had chicken pox (also known as varicella) in the past or if you were previously immunized but cannot prove it, a titer can be done rather than receiving the varicella shot. Titers are often a cheaper option which can be done for Varicella, Hepatitis B, and MMR. You should not get a titer if you don't believe you have immunity, as a negative titer result would indicate that you still need to receive the immunization.

MMR Titer - \$65.00 – Please note that a negative titer result for either measles, mumps or rubella will require the vaccination of all 3, which are given simultaneously in a single shot.

Varicella Titer - \$60.00 - Recommended if you have been previously immunized or have a history of chicken pox.



Hepatitis B - \$47.00 – Recommended if you have previously been immunized for Hepatitis B.
Venipuncture - \$25 - Charge for having your blood drawn by our staff. Only charged once per blood draw.

Insurance: The I-693 physical and required lab work are not typically covered by insurance. *If you have American insurance, there is a good chance your vaccinations will be covered, so please be sure to bring your insurance card and tell us if you would like to run the immunizations through insurance prior to receiving them. If you do not inform us that you would like to do this, we will use our state-supplied immunizations at the prices provided above.*

Other Notes:

Immunizations:

Series - Some immunizations are given in a series, meaning you must receive at least one booster shot after the initial shot. You are only required to have the first immunization in a series to complete this process; with the understanding and assumption that you will complete the rest of the series on your own.

Declining: You may decline a required immunization if you have a documented contraindication to it, meaning it would cause you to have a life-threatening reaction. You may decline an immunization without contraindication and submit your paperwork, however it is very likely it will be rejected by the USCIS. If this happens you may need to get the immunization and/or restart the entire process and submit it again. If you wish to decline an immunization for religious reasons, you will need a waiver provided by an officer from the USCIS office. Please see the links below for further immunization information and related questions/answers:

<https://www.uscis.gov/tools/designated-civil-surgeons/vaccination-requirements>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html>

Abnormal Test Results: If any of the test results for sexually transmitted diseases come back positive, you will be required to receive treatment and provide documentation of your treatment before your paperwork can be completed. If your tuberculosis test result is positive or inconclusive, you will be required to get a chest x-ray to determine if you have active tuberculosis. This would require further treatment before your paperwork can be completed. Those with a normal chest x-ray may be diagnosed with latent tuberculosis. Those diagnosed with latent tuberculosis will receive their completed paperwork with the understanding that they will follow up with their primary care doctor to receive treatment. If you do not have a primary care provider, the civil surgeon can assist with your treatment in a separate visit. More information about tuberculosis is beyond the scope of this letter and can be discussed with the civil surgeon, there is also more information in the link below.

<https://www.cdc.gov/tb/about/index.html>



Turnaround Time: You should allot about an hour to have your physical exam and laboratory work, and more time if you need numerous immunizations. After getting your blood drawn on a Wednesday, the results typically arrive the following Monday, 5 days later. If everything results normally and your immunizations are up to date, we will pack your paperwork in a sealed envelope and call you to either pick it up at our office or we will verify the address you would like it mailed to using 2-day USPS priority shipping. We will provide you with a copy of the contents of the sealed envelope as well as your immunization records and lab results.

Paperwork Overview

1. Below is a link to the UCIS I-693 Form.

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-693>

If you have not done so already, please fill out page 1 and 2 of the I-693 (just the top parts) and send them back to us at staff@champlainmedical.com or fax: (802) 448-1414 along with any other records so we can get started on your paperwork.

2. Please fill out the attached form "ROS," print and bring to appointment.
3. Send us and bring your immunization records with you to your appointment.
4. Do not forget passports and drivers' licenses on appointment day.