

WHAT IS THE HEALTH ASSESSMENT MATRIX

The Health Matrix is used by DIAC client service officers and decision-makers to determine what health assessments temporary visa applicants are required to undertake according to the applicant's:

- country risk level in terms of tuberculosis.
- intended period of stay in Australia.
- proposed activities while in Australia (eg working in childcare or entering a hospital.)

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LATEST FORM

The Health Matrix has been updated as part of an Australian Government Initiative to:

- Improve the quality & consistency of health related decision-making in Australia.
- Improve our health risk management framework & our flexibility to respond to change.
- Enable DIAC to better manage the health risk associated with people entering Australia.

The main changes include:

CHANGES IN THE FORM

- Merging the risk categories from four to three i.e. 'Lower Risk', 'Medium Risk' and 'Higher Risk'
- Changing the length of stay categories:
 - The new Matrix reduces this to two i.e. up to and including 12 months and more than 12 months, for all applicants except high risk applicants.
 - This change is based on business information regarding average lengths of stay for temporary visa holders.
- A new column has been included outlining Health Assessment requirements for permanent visa applications.
- A number of countries risk levels have been down graded and under the new Matrix, may not need a Health Assessment.

Note: A complete list of the Higher risk countries is available on the DIAC website at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/health-requirements>

HOW TO USE THE NEW HEALTH ASSESSMENT MATRIX

The following is a 'No Special Significance' case example:

457 applicant from India with no dependants stays for more than 12 months.

- Applies for 457 visa.
- Stay more than 12 months.
- Applicant from 'Higher Risk' country.

Outcome: Chest x-ray required

The following are 'With Special Significance' case examples:

A health care worker (doctor) from the UK coming to Australia to work for more than 12 months.

- Applies for 457 visa.
- Stay more than 12 months.
- Applicant from 'Lower Risk' country.

Outcome: Chest x-ray, medical, HIV, Hep B and Hep C tests.

⇒ **All health care workers who declare they are intending to work in a health care facility are required to do a chest x-ray, medicals and HIV and Hep B and C tests regardless of length of stay.**

A Brazilian student coming to study Law in Sydney for 5 years.

- Applies for 573 visa.
- Stay for 5 years.
- Applicant from 'Higher Risk' country.

Outcome: Chest x-ray and medical required

⇒ **All students from 'Medium Risk' and 'Higher Risk' countries intending to study in a classroom environment for more than 3 months are required to undertake a chest x-ray and a full medical examination.**

A priest from Sweden has spent the last ten years in Congo and now wishes to come to Australia for 1 year on a Religious Worker visa.

- Applies for 428 visa.
- Stay between 3 and 12 months.
- Applicant is a citizen of a 'Lower Risk' country.
- Applicant has spent more than three consecutive months in the last five years in a higher risk country.

Outcome: Chest x-ray required.

An Indonesian woman who is pregnant:

- Applies for a 572 visa as a dependent.
- Stay less than 12 months.
- Intends to give birth in Australia.
- Applicant from 'Higher Risk' country.

Outcome: Hep B test and chest x-ray required

- ⇒ **All pregnant applicants are required to undertake a Hep B test.**
- ⇒ **Higher risk applicants intending to give birth in Australia are of 'Special Significance'.**
- ⇒ **The Australian government does not recommend a chest x-ray for pregnant applicants.**
- ⇒ **Higher risk applicants cannot be granted a visa until they undertake a chest x-ray and are assessed as meeting the health requirement.**
- ⇒ **In most cases this will occur after the birth of the child offshore and they are assessed as 'free from TB'.**

Health Matrix

DIAC Panel Doctors (March 2009)



Country level of risk This is assessed by your: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country of citizenship or If you have spent more than 3 consecutive months in the last 5 years in another country, the higher risk level applies. 	Minimum health assessment requirements		
	Temporary stays of:		Permanent stay
	Up to and including 12 months	More than 12 months	
Lower Risk American Samoa, Andorra, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montserrat, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, United States of America, United States Virgin Islands, Vatican City.	No health assessment required unless special significance* applies.	No health assessment required unless special significance* applies.	As a minimum requirement , all permanent visa applicants (and applicants for provisional visas) are required to complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a medical examination a chest x-ray[^] (if 11 years or over) an HIV test (if 15 years or over). Pregnant applicants must also complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Hepatitis B test.
Medium Risk Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Cook Islands, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hungary, Iran, Japan, Kuwait, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, New Caledonia, Palau, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Samoa, Seychelles, Singapore, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela, West Bank and Gaza Strip.	No health assessment required unless special significance* applies.	You must undergo a chest x-ray [^] and a medical examination. Any special significance* requirements must be met. 457 applicants – chest x-ray [^] only unless special significance* applies.	Note 1: Additional health assessments may be required depending on applicants' circumstances. Note 2: Please refer to form 1071i <i>Health requirement for permanent entry to Australia</i> for further information about health assessments for permanent applicants.
Higher risk Countries not listed in lower or medium risk are higher risk. This includes, but is not limited to: China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, and Thailand. A complete list of higher risk countries is available at www.immi.gov.au/allforms/health-requirements	You must undergo a chest x-ray [^] if staying in Australia for more than 3 months. Any special significance* requirements must be met.	You must undergo a chest x-ray [^] and a medical examination. Any special significance* requirements must be met. 457 applicants – chest x-ray [^] only unless special significance* applies.	

Special significance applies if:

<i>If this special significance circumstance applies, then</i>	<i>the MINIMUM health assessment/s required are:</i>
Are you likely to enter a classroom situation for more than 3 months and you are from a medium or higher risk country?	chest x-ray [^] and medical examination. Principal and secondary applicants are to undergo the same health assessments unless other additional special significance health assessments apply.
Are you from a medium or higher risk country and likely to enter a health care or hospital environment?	chest x-ray [^]
Do you intend to work as, or study to be a doctor, dentist or nurse ?	chest x-ray [^] , medical examination including HIV, Hepatitis B and C blood tests.
Are you likely to work (or be a trainee) at an Australian childcare centre (including preschools and creches)?	chest x-ray [^]
Are you aged 70 years or older and applying for a Visitor visa (subclasses 676, 679, 456, 459 ONLY) and NOT already required to undergo a medical examination?	an 'Aged 70 and over' health assessment

[^] Where a chest x-ray is required, this applies to applicants aged 11 years or more. Children under the age of 11 years are required to complete a medical examination instead of a chest x-ray. The department does not recommend pregnant applicants undergo a chest x-ray.

NOTE: The table above is taken from form 1163i and the information is directed at the visa applicant

FURTHER INFORMATION - RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Panel Doctors Gateway: http://www.immi.gov.au/gateways/panel_doctors/

Enquiry and Feedback Form: <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/forms/email/eform-panel-doctors.htm?51>

Health Operations Centre (HOC) email: health.operationscentre@immi.gov.au