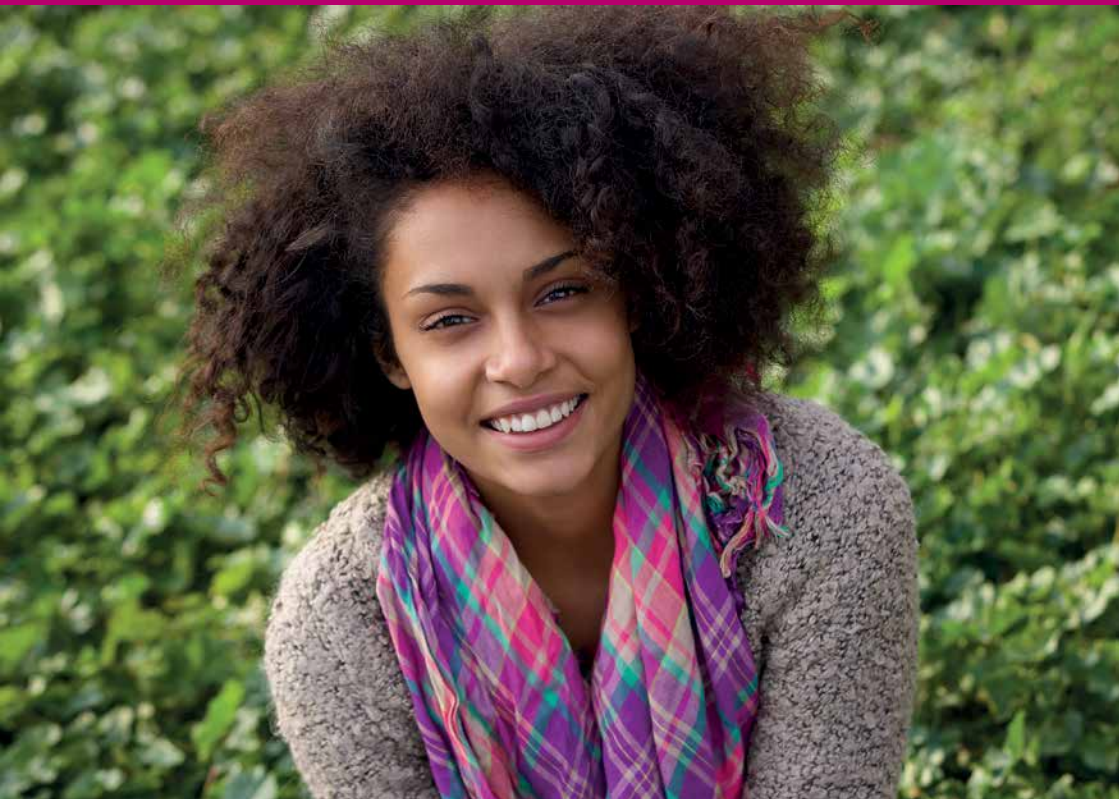




National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

TB screening for immigrants

Information about TB screening for immigrants



Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious disease that is commonly found worldwide. It is also found in the country you come from. That is why you will be tested for TB when you arrive in the Netherlands. The first test is mandatory under the Aliens Act. The test sometimes has to be repeated. That depends on the rate of TB in the country you come from. It is important that you have the tests done. It is important for your own health and that of the people around you.

What is TB?

TB is a serious disease caused by bacteria. The disease usually affects the lungs (pulmonary TB). Someone with pulmonary TB can spread the disease to others by coughing. Symptoms that could indicate TB are coughing, weight loss, high temperature (fever) and night sweats. Some people have very mild symptoms or none at all. That means you could have TB without knowing it.

Screening

Various tests are used for TB screening. The choice of test will depend on your health, your age and the country you come from. To find out which test would be most suitable for you, the Municipal Public Health Service (GGD) will first ask some questions about your health.

Chest X-ray

A chest X-ray (of the lungs) can quickly identify any abnormalities that could indicate TB. The result of the X-ray should be available within a few days. Chest X-rays are safe, also for children and pregnant women. You can find more information about this test in the leaflet **Chest X-ray to test for TB**.

The tuberculin skin test (Mantoux test)

The test involves injecting a small amount of fluid into the skin on the outside of the left forearm. A GGD employee will assess the skin reaction after two to three days. A skin reaction, such as a small bump, could indicate that you are infected with TB bacteria. You can find more information about this test in the leaflet about the **TB skin test and blood test**.

The blood test (IGRA)

This involves taking a blood sample. The blood is sent to a laboratory for testing. This test can indicate whether you are infected with TB bacteria. The results will be available after two to three weeks. You can find more information about this test in the leaflet about the **TB skin test and blood test**.

What happens after the test?

- The TB department will send the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) a certificate confirming that you have been tested for TB. The GGD may also give this certificate to you. You should then send it to the IND yourself.
- The test results will be assessed by the TB doctor at the GGD.
- The test results are never disclosed to the IND.
- If the test result is good (negative), you will not be notified.
- You will be notified if the tests reveal any abnormalities. Additional testing will often be needed to establish whether you have TB or something else. So if the GGD invites you for another appointment, it is important that you go.
- If you do have TB, you will be treated as soon as possible. This is important, both for you and for the people around you.
- The chest X-ray is a 'snapshot' of the current situation. You may still develop symptoms that could indicate TB, such as coughing, weight loss, high temperature (fever) or night sweats. In that case, contact your general practitioner, even if you have recently been tested. You can also contact the TB department of the GGD in your region.

TB and treatment for TB are not reasons to refuse a residence permit. In principle, you will be able to complete the treatment in the Netherlands.

What do we do with your data?

The GGD follows the rules of the law in handling your personal data that are stored in your medical file.

Any questions, tips, complaints or compliments about the screening?

- Please contact the TB prevention department of the GGD in your region. You can find the contact details on www.ggd.nl and in the vaccination invitation. GGDs have a complaints procedure.
- For more information about TB, go to www.rivm.nl/tuberculose.

This information is available in English at:
Xogtaan oo Soomaali ah waxaa laga heli karaa:

ብላጽ ገጽ ትግርኛ ዝተተርጎመ ሞልክዕ ናይ'ዚ ፋብሬታ፣ ኣብ'ዚ ዝሰዕብ ገጽ ክርከብ ይከኣል፦

هذه المعلومات متاحة باللغة العربية في هذا الموضوع:

این معلومات به زبان دری در اینجا قابل دسترس است:



www.rivm.nl/en/tuberculosis/information-materials

Published by:

**National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment, RIVM**

PO Box 1 | 3720 BA Bilthoven

The Netherlands

www.rivm.nl/en

March 2022

Committed to *health and sustainability*