

**Leaflet for asylum seekers
regarding medical examination by the health authorities**

You have arrived in the Free State of Saxony as an asylum seeker and you will undergo a medical examination which will be carried out by the responsible health authority. The purpose of the examination is to quickly diagnose and treat communicable diseases; measures against the spread of such diseases can then be taken. The examination is mainly for your own interest and also for the interests of the people who live with you in a shared apartment.

The examination consists of a general physical examination (if this is necessary to detect a communicable disease), an x-ray of the chest (for those who are 15 years old and older) or a skin test for tuberculosis for children up to the age of 15 and for pregnant women. For those who are 13 years old and older, a blood test will be done to test for hepatitis A and B (contagious jaundice) as well as for the immunity against measles, mumps, German measles and chickenpox. If there is suspicion of an illness, a stool test will be done to check for enteric infection pathogens.

If the health authority doctor ascertains signs of other diseases, advanced examinations may be ordered.

After completion of the examinations, you will be issued a medical certificate.

If it is necessary for the hindrance of the spread of a communicable disease or if you are found with symptoms of a disease that requires treatment, the health authority will forward the results of the examinations to other responsible authorities.

In other cases, the results of the examinations are only forwarded to other authorities if you are in agreement with that.

Further information about medical care for asylum seekers is available from the central foreigners' agency and the health authority which will be responsible for you later.

You are asked to fill out the anamnesis questionnaire (questions regarding medical records) and hand it over to the health authority doctor who will do the examination.
Please fill out a questionnaire for each of your children.

Counselling on AIDS/HIV, hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted diseases as well as corresponding laboratory tests can be offered to you if necessary off the first examination by the local responsible health authority. This is wise if there is a risk that you might have infected yourself with these pathogens in the past or if you exhibited the described symptoms in the past. These examinations are entirely voluntary and they will only be done with your consent. Your examination results will be treated as confidential.

Information regarding the diseases

AIDS/HIV Infection

AIDS is the name of an immunodeficiency disease which comes about as a result of an infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) attacks and destroys defence cells in the body.

A few weeks after infection with HIV, flu-like symptoms such as fever and joint ache can appear at first. The further progression of the HIV infection is very different for each individual. Due to the increasing damaging of the immune system, it can eventually come to severe infections with pathogens which couldn't harm a healthy immune system. It can also lead to rare types of cancer and severe illnesses of the central nervous system.

Hepatitis C

An infection with hepatitis-C virus (HCV) often remains unnoticed. Nevertheless, the person carrying the virus can infect others. If signs of the disease are present, symptoms such as lack of appetite, exhaustion, muscle and joint aches, pains in the upper abdomen, nausea, vomiting and slight fever appear. Moreover, the skin and the conjunctiva of the eye can become yellow. An HCV illness rarely heals on its own. Three quarters of all cases progress chronically. After some years, severe liver damage can occur.

Syphilis

Syphilis (also known as lues) is a globally spread, infectious disease. Syphilis is caused by microscopic spiral-shaped bacteria. Syphilis progresses in several stages. The symptoms are very different and ambiguous.

About 3 weeks after infection, blisters and later ulcers can form at the pathogens' point of entry (e.g. sex organs). These are not painful and they heal spontaneously. However, this does not mean that the infection has been beaten; it can turn into a chronic process. Rashes can appear all over the body as well as swollen lymph nodes. Most of the time, several years after infection, different organs such as the heart, aorta, liver, bones or nervous system can be permanently damaged.

If syphilis is contracted during pregnancy, the bacteria can cause severe damage to the unborn child.