

MEDICAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

The Peace Corps Office of Medical Services complies with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and will review all applicants on a case by case basis and try to reasonably accommodate for known medical conditions.

Applicants to Peace Corps must undergo a comprehensive medical and dental assessment based on their medical history and medical/dental examination. This will determine if and when they can safely serve in the Peace Corps. If your physician recommends yearly follow-ups for a specific condition, or your medical history reasonably suggests the need for certain medical resources, you will be accommodated to those limited countries where the required level of medical support is available. If your condition is not appropriately stable to complete 27 months of Peace Corps Volunteer service or the quality of medical support you require is not available in the countries where Peace Corps serves, you may not be medically cleared for Peace Corps service. You should be aware of the following information, which may help you to determine in advance whether medical/dental assessment of your health will be relatively simple or complex.

Included in your Peace Corps Application is a Health Status Review which is a report of your medical history. Filling out this questionnaire accurately and completely speeds up the medical screening process. Take the time to check your health records so that the health conditions, treatments and dates you report are correct. Your medical kit is produced individually for you as a follow-up to your unique medical history as reported on your Health Status Review. *The more accurately you describe health conditions and treatment on the Health Status Review, the less likely it is that we will ask you for unnecessary follow-up information.* Medical information is confidential and will be forwarded to the Office of Medical Services.

The following lists are not inclusive of all conditions that may affect clearance or placement. For further information, you may call the Office of Medical Services, at 1-800-424-8580 ext. 1500, from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday – Friday (Eastern Time). Failure to disclose complete information on your application can be grounds for administrative separation from Peace Corps.

If you are medically cleared with any of the following conditions, you will be placed in a country with the necessary medical resources only if compatible program sites are available:

Diabetes	Seizures
Asthma, mild to moderate	Conditions requiring necessary site support

Peace Corps is typically unable to reasonably accommodate the following conditions and recommends that you consult with your physician regarding suitability for the Peace Corps service environment if you have:

Addison's Disease	Hemophilia
Aneurysm, inoperable	History of Psychosis
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease)	Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
Asthma, severe	Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Cancer of the Bladder	Irreversible Lung Disease (emphysema)
Cancer with Metastasis	Ischemic Heart Disease
Chronic Glomerulonephritis	Kidney Stones (recurrent)
Chronic Hepatitis	Life-threatening allergic reactions
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	Major Depression (recurrent)
Chronic Pancreatitis	Muscular Dystrophy (progressive)
Chronic Pyelonephritis	Myasthenia Gravis
Chronic Reiter's Syndrome	Narcolepsy (poorly controlled)
Claudication	Optic Neuritis (recurrent)
Conditions requiring blood thinner medication	Osteoporosis with history of stress fractures
Conditions requiring oral or injectable steroids	Parkinson's Disease
Coronary Artery Disease (symptomatic)	Pituitary Adenoma with acromegaly
Congestive Heart Failure	Rheumatoid Arthritis
Connective Tissue Disorder	Sarcoidosis
Diabetes with any complications	Symptomatic Cardiac Arrhythmias
Diverticulitis	Thrombophlebitis, recurrent
Endocarditis (heart disease or enlarged heart)	Ulcerative Colitis
Esophageal Varices	Ulcerative Proctitis

If you have any of the following conditions your entry into Peace Corps will be deferred until resolved:

Abnormal Pap Smear	Internal Hemorrhoids
Allergies requiring desensitization injections	Kidney or Bladder Infections
Anemia (cause must be identified)	Orthodontic Braces (excluding bite-plate)
Cataracts requiring surgery	Ovarian Cyst
Endometriosis	Some Psychological Conditions
Inguinal Hernia	Uterine Fibroids (symptomatic)

If you have any of the following conditions, entry into the Peace Corps will be deferred. The time frames specified for each condition are guidelines for the length of the deferral period and subject to change:

Alcoholism, Substance Addiction – minimum of 3-5 years of sobriety/abstinence
Cancer – 3 years cancer-free ; no deferral for most skin cancers and carcinoma-in-situ)
Coronary artery bypass surgery or angioplasty – 1 year symptom free, no medications, normal stress test
Cystic Acne-Accutane treatment – 2 months after completion of therapy
Gastritis, Esophagitis, Peptic or Duodenal Ulcer – minimum of 6 months well controlled, non-smoker
Glaucoma – 3 months well controlled with medications or 6 months after surgical treatment
Herniated Disc – minimum of 2 years symptom free
Herpes Keratitis (eye) – 2 years inactive
High Blood Pressure – 3 months well controlled under treatment; weight within medically recommended range
Joint or Back Disorders must be stable or mild; weight within medically recommended range
Joint Replacement (hip, knee, shoulder) or arthroscopy – 1 year
Ligament Reconstruction (knee, ankle, shoulder) or arthroscopy – 1 year
Multiple Sclerosis – minimum of 10 years no exacerbations or new symptoms
Myocardial Infarction (heart attack) – 12 months symptom free, not on medication, normal stress test
Seizure Disorder – minimum of 1 year seizure free
Stroke – 2 years symptom free, not on medication
Underweight or Overweight - 20% or more over or 75% or less under, the medically recommended weight for height with associated risk factors – until within medically recommended weight, or risk factors resolved

The Office of Medical Services will process your medical review as follows:

- Receive your Health Status Review (HSR).
- Review your HSR after you have been nominated by a Recruiter.
- Mail you a medical clearance packet containing a physical, dental, and eye exam plus any specialist evaluations required in relation to your unique medical history – **or** if your medical history appears complex for the Peace Corps service environment, we will first ask for specialist evaluations before sending you the physical, dental, and eye exam forms.
- Review your exams and information and reply to you with a request for any missing info or additional information. This will continue until all necessary information has been received.
- Issue a medical clearance, a deferral of 3-36 months, or a medically not qualified status, and inform your Placement Officer of your final medical review status.

Peace Corps is able to medically clear 85% of applicants who complete the medical review process.

Once you receive a medical/dental clearance it will have been based on your medical/dental status at that time. If after your clearance you become ill, undergo surgery, add to or change medications, undergo therapy or treatment, or develop any condition for which you seek medical assistance, please notify us immediately. Any significant change in your health status may impact on your medical/dental clearance. Failure to disclose such information may seriously affect your health overseas, as well as your status as a Peace Corps Trainee/Volunteer.

