



International Student Guide: Co-op Work Permit - Requirement for Medical Exam

If you're applying within Canada and completed an immigration medical exam within the last five years

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has [implemented a temporary public policy](#) that exempts certain low-risk, in-Canada, foreign nationals from submitting an immigration medical examination (IME) as part of their application when their previous IME has expired. This exemption applies to foreign nationals who have:

- a new or pending application for permanent or temporary residence or a permanent resident visa, made from within Canada
- completed an immigration medical exam within the last 5 years and posed no risk to public health or safety, or reported to public health authorities for monitoring, as required

When submitting an application, applicants must provide the unique medical identifier number (UMI) from their previous medical exam. The temporary public policy will remain in effect until October 6, 2024. Applicants who are not eligible under this temporary public policy are required to undergo an IME as per usual health screening procedures. IRCC will contact individuals who are not eligible for the exemption to discuss next steps.

View [Streamlining immigration medical examination requirements for eligible applicants](#)

Please note that if you are enrolled in a Health & Human Services or Early Childhood Education program where you have placements or clinicals in healthcare, education, or childcare fields, you must have a valid immigration medical before you submit your co-op work permit, study permit, study permit extension and post-graduate work permit applications. Otherwise, your permits will come with a condition that will not allow you to attend your placements. Please contact your Student Services Advisor, International Support, if you have any questions.

Do I need a medical exam for my co-op work permit?

You may need a medical exam for either of these reasons:

1. If your work placement will be in a job where it is important to protect public health, or where you may come into close contact with people:
 - health services,
 - child care or
 - primary or secondary education

Examples of such jobs are:

- workers in the health sciences field
- clinical laboratory workers
- patient attendants in nursing and geriatric homes
- medical students admitted to Canada to attend university
- medical electives and physicians on short-term locums
- teachers of primary or secondary schools, or other teachers of small children
- domestics
- workers who give in-home care to children, the elderly and the disabled
- day nursery employees and
- other similar jobs

<https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=183&top=17>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/medical-police/medical-exams/requirements-temporary-residents.html#needs>

The following NSCC programs require a medical exam for a Co-Op Work Permit.

- Continuing Care
- Dental Assisting – Level II
- Health Information Management
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Medical Office Administration
- Occupational Therapy / Physiotherapy Assistant
 - Pharmacy Technician
 - Practical Nursing
- Practical Nursing Re-entry to Practice
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Addictions Community Outreach
- Behavioral Interventions
 - Child and Youth Care
 - Community Recreation
- Disability Supports and Services
 - Early Childhood Education
- Mental Health Recovery and Promotion
 - Social Services

2. If you have lived in an IRCC-designated country for more than 6 months in the past year: You can view which countries and territories are considered “designated” here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/medical-police/medical-exams/requirements-temporary-residents/country-requirements.html>

I want to work in a job that requires a medical exam, but I already have my co-op work permit. What do I do?

If you already have your co-op work permit and didn’t get a medical exam, but you now want to work in [a job that requires a medical exam](#), follow these instructions:

1. If you haven’t left your country of residence yet

You must:

- get a medical exam with an [IRCC-approved physician](#)
- provide proof of this medical exam to border services officer when you enter Canada

- This is the printed “Information Sheet” you’ll get from the panel physician who performed the medical exam

The border services officer will adjust the conditions on your work permit before giving it to you.

2. If you’re already in Canada

You must:

- get a medical exam with an [IRCC-approved physician](#)
- submit an [application to change your work permit conditions](#), with all the required documents (online – using your GCKey)
 - On the IMM 5710 form, for 1 a) **under “Details of intended work in Canada”, select “Other”**
 - Also on the IMM 5710 form, for 1 b), **under “Other”, write that you need the conditions removed** (not authorized to work in childcare, primary/secondary school teachings, health service field occupations)
 - Include a short letter of explanation as to why you need them removed (to work in a job that requires one) – merge this with your letter of acceptance from NSCC

<https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=844&top=4>

OR

- get a medical exam with an [IRCC-approved physician](#)
- apply for a new [co-op work permit](#):
 - On the IMM 5710 form, for 1 a) **under “Details of intended work in Canada”, select “Other”**
 - Also on the IMM 5710 form, for 1 b), **under “Other”, write that you need a new work permit that allows you to work in your field** (authorized to work in childcare, primary/secondary school teachings, health service field occupations)
 - Include a short letter of explanation as to why you need them removed (to work in a job that requires one) – merge this with your letter of acceptance from NSCC

<https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=844&top=4>