



Important Medical Information for Applicants

Because of the nature of the countries where Peace Corps serves and the scope of medical care available there, applicants to Peace Corps must undergo a comprehensive medical and dental assessment to determine whether they are medically qualified to serve in the Peace Corps. ***Each applicant is assessed individually.***

An applicant must have the physical and mental capacity, with or without medical accommodation, to perform the essential functions of a Volunteer for a full tour of duty without unreasonable disruption due to health concerns. If your medical history suggests the need for certain medical resources, you may be cleared only for those countries, if any, where the required level of medical support is reasonably available. The following information may help you to determine in advance whether your health assessment will be relatively simple or complex.

Filling out the Health History Form accurately and completely will expedite the medical screening process. Medical information is confidential and will be sent to the Office of Medical Services (OMS). ***Failure to disclose complete information on your application can be grounds for disqualification or administrative separation from Peace Corps.***

Because of the nature of the countries where Peace Corps serves, the conditions under which Volunteers live and work, and the scope of medical care available in those countries, Peace Corps may not be able to support some medical conditions. Below is a list of many – but not all – health conditions typically not supported in Peace Corps service.

Health Conditions Typically Not Supported In Peace Corps Service

Medical Conditions

- Addison's Disease
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Blood thinner medications (other than aspirin)
- Cancer (if recent treatment or metastasis)
- Cardiovascular conditions: endocarditis, symptomatic coronary artery disease, symptomatic cardiac arrhythmias, recurrent thrombophlebitis, inoperable aneurysm
- Chronic conditions such as: hepatitis, iritis, uveitis, glomerulonephritis, inflammatory arthritis, recurrent kidney stones
- Conditions requiring oral or injectable steroids or immunomodulators
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Chronic pain requiring regular use of narcotics
- Dementia
- Gastrointestinal conditions: Crohn's Disease, recurrent diverticulitis, ulcerative colitis, uncontrolled irritable bowel syndrome, pancreatitis, esophageal varices
- Hematological Disorders: hemophilia, idiopathic thrombocytopenia
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Multiple Sclerosis – with unstable signs and symptoms
- Myasthenia Gravis
- Narcolepsy – poorly controlled
- Optic Neuritis – recurrent
- Osteoporosis (history of or high risk for stress fracture)
- Parkinson's Disease
- Pulmonary conditions: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), emphysema, advanced lung scarring (fibrosis)
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Ventricular shunt for hydrocephalus
- Other complex medical health conditions

Mental Health Conditions

Generally, for Mental Health conditions, a period of stability will be required after ending counseling/therapy, and for medication start/stop/dosage changes

- Bipolar I Disorder
- Complex mental health conditions with multiple diagnoses
- Conditions requiring daily or as needed treatment with benzodiazepines (Xanax, Valium, Ativan and others)
- Major Depression, recurrent
- Ongoing mental health conditions for which symptoms have not resolved
- Psychosis
- Recent changes in psychotropic medications
- Recent diagnosis of: any new mental health condition, eating disorder, suicidal attempt or ideation, self-harming behavior, substance abuse or dependence
- Recent mental health hospitalization
- Resolved mental health conditions with insufficient time to assess for stability
- Schizophrenia

OMS will process your medical review as follows:

- We will review your HHF after you have accepted an invitation to serve.
- Several medical tasks will populate in your portal at various times, requesting all exams and specialist evaluations, if applicable.
- If your medical history appears complex, we may first ask for specialist evaluations before sending you the kit.
- We will review your completed exams and other medical information.

- We will contact you if we require additional information.
- We will issue either a medical clearance or a medical non-clearance.

Receipt of medical clearance is based on your medical and 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 may impact your medical clearance. Failure to disclose such information may seriously affect your health overseas, as well as your status as a Peace Corps Invitee. For further information, you may call the Office of Medical Services at 1-855-855-1961, ext. 4047, from 10:00 am-4:00 pm Monday-Friday (Eastern Time).