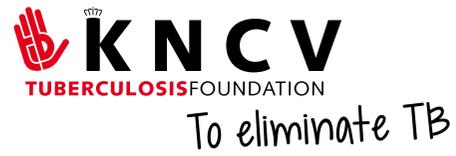
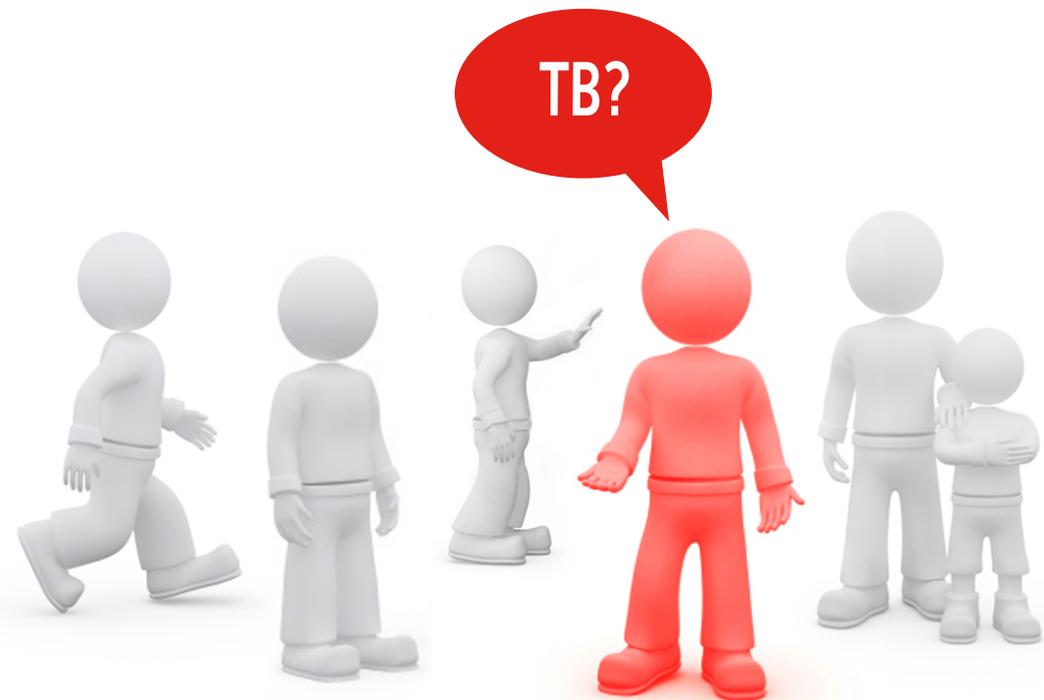


# INFORMATION ABOUT TB SCREENING FOR IMMIGRANTS



[www.tuberculose.nl](http://www.tuberculose.nl)  
The Hague, The Netherlands



## Why did you receive this invitation?

Tuberculosis (TB) is a serious but treatable disease. It is quite common in the world, also in the country where you come from. That is why you will be tested for tuberculosis upon your arrival in the Netherlands. The first test is mandatory under the Aliens Act.

Tuberculosis is a disease that develops only slowly. You may therefore be asked to undergo several follow-up tests. The specific testing procedure depends on the prevalence of tuberculosis in the country where you come from.

The TB control department of the Municipal Health Service (GGD) will let you know if you need a follow-up test and when this test will take place. It is important to participate in the tests, both for your own health and for the health of the people around you.



## What is tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease that is caused by a bacterium. The disease usually develops in the lungs. A person suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis may transmit the disease to others by air. Symptoms that are typical for tuberculosis are coughing, weight loss, fever or night sweats. Sometimes, people have no or few symptoms. So you may be suffering from tuberculosis without knowing it. That is why the TB test is important. It is also important for the people you meet, because you may infect others without even knowing it.

Would you like more information? Download the brochure "What is tuberculosis?" at [www.tuberculose.nl](http://www.tuberculose.nl) or ask for the brochure from the TB control department of the Municipal Health Service.

## What do you need to know about the lung X-ray?

As the contagious form of tuberculosis affects the lungs, a lung X-ray is usually taken. This examination is harmless, also for young children or pregnant women.

### What do you have to do before the lung X-ray is taken?

- Remove any jewellery (necklace, brooch, piercing, etc.)
- Put up long hair, but you do not need to remove a headscarf
- In order for the X-ray to be taken, you usually have to undress the upper part of your body.

### What do you have to do while the lung X-ray is taken?

- You are asked to take a deep breath, and to hold your breath when the X-ray is taken.
- If your child needs to have a lung X-ray taken, you will be able to see your child through the glass. Put your child at ease, taking a lung X-ray does not hurt and only takes a few minutes.

### What will happen afterwards?

- The lung X-ray will be examined by a TB control doctor from the Municipal Health Service.
- The TB control department will send the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) a document showing that you have been tested for tuberculosis (only after the first test). Sometimes, the Municipal Health Service will give this document to you so that you can send it to the IND yourself. The test results will never be forwarded to the IND.
- If the lung X-ray does not show anything unusual, you will not be notified.
- You will, however, be notified if the lung X-ray shows that a follow-up test is required. This does not mean that you have tuberculosis. Any abnormalities on the X-ray may be caused by something else. However, a follow-up test will be necessary, in your own interest. It is therefore very important that you show up if the Municipal Health Service sends you another invitation.
- If you have tuberculosis, you will be treated as soon as possible.

Tuberculosis and its treatment are no reason not to grant you a residence permit. In principle, you may finish the treatment in the Netherlands.

- If you appear to have tuberculosis or other abnormalities, your general practitioner will be informed of this by the TB doctor from the Municipal Health Service.

## In conclusion

- The lung X-ray is only a snapshot. If, after the X-ray has been taken, you develop symptoms that could indicate tuberculosis (such as coughing, weight loss, fever or night sweats), you should go to your general practitioner, even if you were tested only recently. Or you should contact the TB control department of the Municipal Health Service.
- Do you believe that you were treated wrongly or negligently? The Municipal Health Service offers you the possibility to file a complaint. You can find more information about this on the website of the Municipal Health Service, or you can contact the TB control department. (See the address details of the Municipal Health Service below.)