

Protocol for Medical Clearance and Access to Cayo Santiago. Applicable to Non-Affiliated UPR Researchers

Purpose: To describe the process that non-affiliated UPR researchers must follow, in order to gain access to the island of Cayo Santiago via the Occupational Health Office (OHO) of the Medical Sciences Campus. This process can only be followed if you have received entrance approval by the CPRC Cayo Santiago Associate Director.

PRE-ENTRANCE MEDICAL CLEARANCE FOR RESEARCHERS

- 1) All researchers must submit a completed Medical History Form and the following documents to the Occupational Health Office (OHO) at the UPR Medical Sciences Campus:
 - a. Completed medical history form.
 - b. Results of fecal exam for ova & parasites.
 - c. Results of fecal culture for Salmonella and Shigella.
 - d. Results for measles titers IgG (Rubeola) (Only for individuals born after 1957/those born before 1957 do not have to perform the test, but must include a copy of a valid identification that specifies date of birth (e.g. driver's license).
 - e. Results of negative tuberculin (Tb) skin test obtained within six months, or if skin test results positive a chest x-ray must be performed within one year prior to entry on the island.
 - f. Evidence of Diphtheria Tetanus vaccination (DT vaccine), which is required due to the high prevalence of Tetanus disease on Cayo Santiago.
- 2) Only tuberculin test must be repeated if the extent of your stay is beyond six months of the initial skin test or 1 year when submitting an X-ray. Also in case of suffering a gastrointestinal episode during your stay at Cayo Santiago, you must follow the instructions specified in Section C of this protocol.
- 3) All other documents submitted to the OHO are to be presented only at initial submission.
- 4) Submit all documentation at least 30 days prior to date of arrival. Please note that if you do not comply with this deadline you will not be allowed to enter the field site. Submit to:

Juanita Rivera
Occupational Health Nurse
UPR Medical Sciences Campus
Phone: (787) 758-2525 ext. 2910 / 2913
Fax: (787) 758-7441
juanita.rivera1@upr.edu

- 5) Once the package has been submitted you shall confirm receipt via telephone with the Occupational Health Nurse at (787) 758-2525 ext. 12913. Also send an email to the Occupational Health Coordinator at Cayo Santiago Ms. Nahiri Rivera (nahiri.rivera@upr.edu) for assistance on follow up with the OHO. Ms. Nahiri Rivera will follow up with the OHO nurse for any documents pending from the initial submission; and inform accordingly to the researcher.

- 6) Once the package is evaluated by the OHO doctor, the Occupational Health Nurse will send a signed medical clearance via email and/or fax to the Occupational Health Coordinator at Cayo Santiago. The OHO doctor is only available on Tuesdays and Fridays to evaluate and generate medical clearances.
- 7) The medical clearance will include the expiration date of the Tb test for each individual. The Occupational Health Coordinator at Cayo Santiago must monitor all TB test expiration dates, and notify researchers when they must repeat the test and submit the most updated version to the Occupational Health Nurse.
- 8) The Occupational Health Coordinator at Cayo Santiago will inform the researcher once medical clearance to enter the island of Cayo Santiago has been attained.
- 9) If the researcher wishes to return to the facility after one year has passed from the initial medical clearance, the researcher must contact the Occupational Health Coordinator at Cayo Santiago who will coordinate send a Follow Up Medical History Questionnaire which contains information about any current health conditions that may have occurred after the initial medical clearance was obtained.