

## COVID-19 | Information for Immigrants

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Who is eligible for unemployment insurance benefits?**

In Nevada, immigrants who have valid work authorization are eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. Your work authorization must be valid both during the time you were employed and the time you are unemployed.

#### **Who is eligible for the one-time rebate checks?**

Immigrants with valid social security numbers and who file taxes as “[resident aliens](#)” qualify for the one-time payment. This includes DACA and TPS recipients. If you file taxes as a family, the whole family needs a valid social security number. If you are in a mixed-status family and anyone in the family uses an ITIN (individual taxpayer identification number), the family does not qualify for the payment. Military families may be excluded from this limitation if one spouse has a valid social security number and at least one spouse is in the military.

#### **Will the public charge rule be used against me if I get tested or treated for COVID-19?**

Treatment and preventive services related to COVID-19 will not negatively affect any immigrant as part of a future public charge analysis. USCIS will not consider testing, treatment, or preventative care (including vaccines, if a vaccine becomes available) related to COVID-19 as part of a public charge analysis, even if such treatment is provided or paid for by one or more public benefits.

If you are prevented from working or attending school and must rely on public benefits for the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak and recovery phase, you can provide an explanation and relevant supporting documentation in your application for adjustment of status. USCIS will take all such evidence into consideration in the totality of your circumstances.

#### **Will undocumented immigrants be denied medical care at hospitals?**

There is no law that prohibits hospitals from treating undocumented patients. Moreover, federal law requires hospitals to screen and treat patients who seek emergency care until they are stable. Non-profit hospitals are required to provide at least some level of charity care – or financial assistance – to low income and uninsured residents who meet the hospital’s eligibility rules. This assistance varies from hospital to hospital.

#### **What free or low-cost clinics provide health care to undocumented people?**

Undocumented immigrants can seek primary care at community health centers across the state that offer low-cost services for low-income patients. You can find the closest community health center [here](#).

## Updated Guidelines

### Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

Beginning on March 18, 2020, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) will focus enforcement on public safety risks and individuals subject to mandatory detention based on criminal grounds. For those individuals who do not fall into those categories, ERO will exercise discretion to delay enforcement actions until after the crisis or utilize alternatives to detention, as appropriate.

Consistent with its sensitive locations policy, during the COVID-19 crisis, ICE will not carry out enforcement operations at or near health care facilities, such as hospitals, doctors' offices, accredited health clinics, and emergent or urgent care facilities, except in the most extraordinary of circumstances. Individuals should not avoid seeking medical care because they fear civil immigration enforcement.

### U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

As of June 4, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) field offices and asylum offices have resumed services. USCIS has enacted precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. You may not enter a USCIS facility if you:

- Have any symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, fever or difficulty breathing;
- Have been in close contact with anyone known or suspected to have COVID-19 in the last 14 days; or
- Have been individually directed to self-quarantine or self-isolate by a health care provider or public health official within the last 14 days.
- You may not enter the facility more than 15 minutes before their appointment (30 minutes for naturalization ceremonies).
- We will provide hand sanitizer at entry points.
- You must wear facial coverings that cover both the mouth and nose when entering facilities. If you do not have one, we may provide one or ask you to reschedule your appointment.
- There will be markings and physical barriers in the facility; you should pay close attention to these signs to ensure you follow social distancing guidelines.
- You may also have to answer health screening questions before entering a facility.
- We encourage you to bring your own black or blue ink pens.

For applicants and petitioners who receive an RFE or NOID dated between March 1 and May 1, 2020, any responses submitted within 60 calendar days after the response deadline will be considered by USCIS before any action is taken. Applicants who had an appointment scheduled with an Application Support Center (ASC) on or after the March 18 closure or had filed an I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, extension will have their application processed using previously submitted biometrics.

If you have a scheduled appointment or naturalization ceremony affected by this closure, USCIS domestic field offices should send you a notice. USCIS asylum offices will send interview cancellation notices, automatically reschedule asylum interviews, and send the time, date and location for the rescheduled interview. When USCIS again resumes normal operations, USCIS will automatically reschedule Application Support Center appointments. Individuals who had InfoPass or other appointments at the field office must reschedule through

the [USCIS Contact Center](#), once field offices reopen to the public. To see if your field office has reopened, check [here for Las Vegas](#) and [here for Reno](#).

### **Immigration Courts (DOJ EOIR)**

Certain immigration courts have resumed non-detained hearings. Hearings in non-detained cases at courts without an announced date are postponed through, and including, September 11, 2020. As of this writing, the Las Vegas immigration court is open. EOIR has established temporary email accounts for the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer, the Board of Immigration Appeals and the immigration courts nationwide to facilitate filings for all parties while the EOIR Courts & Appeals System (ECAS) is delayed due to COVID-19. To check the status of individual immigration courts and for more information on filings, see [here](#).