

IMGT COVID Agency Scorecard

Contacts: Ian Wagreich (iwagreich@hsplegal.com), Greg Siskind (gsiskind@visalaw.com)

Agency	Request	Result
USCIS	Expedite Employment Authorization Documents and petition processing.	Nothing
USCIS/State Dept	Create COVID czars.	Nothing
USCIS	Confirm telecommuting/telemedicine will not adversely impact H1-Bs.	Nothing
USCIS	Accept digital signatures on all applications.	USCIS has agreed to accept “reproduced” signatures (photocopies of original signatures), but not digital signatures
USCIS	Automatically extend cases for late filers affected by lockdowns.	Nothing
USCIS	Approve H1-Bs in advance of medical licenses.	Nothing
USCIS	Grant Employment Authorization Documents for H-4 spouses.	Nothing
USCIS	Waive filing fees for hospitals where residents and fellows are fighting COVID.	Nothing
USCIS	Suspend all deadlines for healthcare workers.	Nothing
USCIS	Add nurses, doctors, and other health science professionals to the F-1 STEM list.	Nothing
USCIS	Suspend H1-B <i>Simeio</i> restrictions for healthcare workers.	Nothing
USCIS	Waive interviews in I-140-based adjustment of status petitions for healthcare workers.	While no official policy change has been announced, we’re seeing anecdotal accounts of interviews being waived.
USCIS	Allow H-1B change of status from J-1 status in hardship waiver cases.	Nothing

USCIS	Lift location and job description limitations on healthcare workers.	Nothing
USCIS	Automatically extend all visas for healthcare workers.	Nothing
USCIS	Allow change of status to O/E/F status for those subject to INA Section 212(e).	Nothing
USCIS	Waive Neufeld requirements.	Nothing
USCIS	Resume the premium processing program and waive processing fees for healthcare workers.	Nothing
USCIS	Accept any physician license from any state with a visa application.	Nothing
USCIS	Waive USMLE 3 for H1-B applications.	Nothing
USCIS	Exempt COVID-related transfers from J-1 waiver transfer requirements.	Nothing
USCIS	Expedite changes to J-1 status.	Nothing
USCIS	Waive biometrics requirements.	USCIS has agreed to reuse biometrics from prior USCIS applications; no indication of using biometrics from DOS or elsewhere
DHS	Grant TPS to people stuck in the US and grant expedited TPS-based work cards to healthcare workers.	Nothing
ECFMG EVSP	Allow J-1 doctors to provide telemedicine.	ACGME
ECFMG EVSP	Expedite J-1 transfers.	Nothing
ECFMG EVSP	Relax issuance of DS-2019s.	Yes. Electronic DS-2019s now happening.
ECFMG EVSP	Relax rules regarding J-2 to J-1 switches.	Nothing
ECFMG EVSP	Allow DS-2019 extensions where board exams have been cancelled/postponed.	Nothing

CBP/State Department	Exempt healthcare workers from travel bans and border closures.	Canadian and Mexican border crossings permitted. No change regarding bans from other countries
CBP/USCIS	Use authority to issue employment cards for healthcare workers.	Nothing
CBP	Parole in MDs who can't get visas.	Nothing
HHS	Expand J-1 waiver program for doctors going to underserved areas.	Nothing
HHS	Expand number of Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas (including designating entire country a shortage area).	Nothing
State Dept	Expedite waiver review for healthcare workers.	Nothing
State Dept	Empower ECFMG to make changes outlined above.	DOS has agreed to defer to ACGME accreditation flexibility changes which should allow work flexibility; nothing on the other suggestions.
State Dept	Waive recruiting requirements applicable to J-1 waiver cases.	Nothing
State Dept	Allow more officials to sign waiver recommendations.	Nothing
State Dept	Approve additional waivers for states which have maxed out.	Nothing
State Dept	Allow telecommuting/telework.	Nothing
State Dept	Waive visa interviews.	Nothing
State Dept	Parole in doctors applying for green cards.	Nothing
State Dept	Allow quarantine in the US	Nothing
Appalachian Regional Commission and Delta Regional Authority	Issue J-1 waivers everywhere in the US.	Nothing
ICE	Relax I-9 requirements.	ICE has done this.
Dept of Labor	Suspend H1-B posting requirements.	Nothing
Congress	Pass HR2895/S948 (including green cards for	Nothing

	doctors working in underserved areas for 5+ years)	
Congress	Encourage or mandate asks above.	Three letters have gone out to date asking for a number of these items. Two originating from Senator Klobuchar's office and one from Congressman Cardenas
Congress	Fast-track citizenship for healthcare workers fighting COVID.	Nothing
Congress	Bring back H-1A visas.	Nothing
Congress	Expedite nurse I-140 petitions.	Nothing