Memorandum

To: Hospital Staff
From: Noel Palatas, Manager
April 23, 2020

Executive Order Bars Entry for New Immigrant Visa Holders for 60 Days

On April 22, 2020, President Trump signed his latest immigration-related executive order: Proclamation Suspending Entry of Immigrants Who Present Risk to the U.S. Labor Market During the Economic Recovery Following the COVID-19 Outbreak. The tweet announcing this executive order generated much confusion. The order itself is limited and does not impact PIPS’ ability to process temporary work visas (H-1B, J-1, O-1 etc.) or affect applicants currently in the United States seeking green cards. The proclamation expires 60 days from its effective date and may be extended.

The order becomes effective on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 11:59 PM (ET), and suspends the entry of any individual seeking to enter the U.S. as an immigrant (aka a green card holder) who:

- Is outside the United States on the effective date of the proclamation; and,

- Does not have a valid immigrant visa on the effective date; or

- Does not have a valid official travel document (such as a transportation letter, boarding foil, or advance parole document) on the effective date, or issued on any date thereafter that permits travel to the United States to seek entry or admission. NOTE: This is not to be confused with a sponsor letter; rather, these are official government documents issued for travel to the United States.

The following categories are exempted from the proclamation including: lawful permanent residents of the United States who are outside of the United States when the order takes effect; anyone seeking to enter the United States on an immigrant visa as a physician, nurse, or other healthcare professional, to perform medical research or other research intended to combat the spread of COVID-19; or people entering to perform work essential to combating, recovering from, or otherwise alleviating the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak, as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their respective designees; and any spouse and unmarried children under 21 years old of any foreign national who are accompanying or following to join the foreign national.
The proclamation “requires that within 30 days of the effective date, the Secretaries of Labor and DHS, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall review nonimmigrant programs and recommend to the President other appropriate measures to stimulate the U.S. economy and ensure “the prioritization, hiring and employment” of U.S. workers.” Our office will monitor this and provide any additional information as it arises.