

PIPS - Partners Office for International Professionals and Students

Memorandum

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

Immigration Impacts of COVID-19

****The following guidance and travel restrictions are subject to change.****

Presidential Proclamations:

For Information on the latest Presidential Proclamations, including the proclamation that suspends entry of certain H, J and L visa holders, please click [here](#).

Maintaining Visa status

- If you and/or your family members in J status have contracted or are suspected to have contracted COVID-19, please reach out to our office.
- If your visa sponsorship is ending and you or your family members are unable to leave because of travel restrictions or flight availability, please reach out to our office at pips@partners.org so our team can provide guidance.
- For J-1 or H-1B visa holders who plan to permanently depart the U.S., please have your department submit a departure request to us.
- We recommend that visa holders avoid travel outside the U.S. due to current and potential future travel restrictions. At this time returning to the U.S. after international travel is not guaranteed. Hospital restrictions on travel for business purposes remain in effect.
- If you or your department has not yet contacted PIPS with your new work-from-home address please e-mail pips@partners.org.

Please remember that if you are continuing to work on grant-funded research from home, you should be tracking your grant-related activities. Contact your PI if you have questions about this step.

[Travel Restrictions for Canada and Mexico:](#)

The United States will temporarily limit inbound land border crossings from Canada and Mexico to “essential travel.” These restrictions are temporary and went into effect on March 21, 2020. They will remain in effect through 11:59 pm on July 21, 2020. This decision has been coordinated with the Governments of Mexico and Canada. Examples of essential travel include:

- U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents returning to the United States;
- Individuals traveling for medical purposes (e.g. to receive medical treatment);
- Individuals traveling to attend educational institutions;
- Individuals traveling for emergency response and public health purposes;
- Individuals engaged in lawful cross-border trade;
- Individuals engaged in official government travel or diplomatic travel;
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and immediately family members; and
- Individuals engaged in military-related travel operations.

[Travel Restrictions for foreign nationals entering from Brazil:](#)

On May 24, 2020, President Donald Trump issued a new proclamation suspending entry into the U.S. for any individual who has been in Brazil within 14 days immediately preceding their arrival. The new travel suspension begins May 26, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. ET. This proclamation does not apply to persons aboard a flight scheduled to arrive in the United States that departed prior to 11:59 PM eastern daylight time on May 26, 2020. U.S. Citizens and permanent residents (green card holders) are exempt from the travel restrictions.

[Travel Restrictions for foreign nationals entering from Europe:](#)

On March 11, 2020, President Donald Trump announced restriction on travel to the United States from Europe effective Friday, March 13, 2020. The restrictions apply to foreign nationals who have been physically present in the Schengen Area of Europe during the 14-day period

preceding an attempted entry into the U.S. These restrictions remain in effect until terminated by the president.

- The European Schengen area includes: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.
- U.S. Citizens and permanent residents (green card holders) are exempt from the travel restrictions.

On March 14, 2020, President Trump further expanded the European travel restrictions to include travel from Ireland and the U.K., effective March 16, 2020.

As of now, these travel restrictions are still in effect.

[**Travel Restrictions for Foreign Nationals Entering from China:**](#)

On Friday, January 31, 2020, President Trump signed a proclamation suspending entry into the United States of foreign nationals who were physically present in the People's Republic of China, excluding the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, within the 14 days preceding an attempted entry into the U.S.

[**Government Updates:**](#)

The U.S. Department of State has suspended routine visa services in most countries worldwide. These embassies and consulates will resume routine visa services as soon as possible, but we are unable to provide a specific date at this time.

Physicians with an approved H-1B, H-1B1, O-1, E-3 visa petition or ECFMG J-1 DS-2019 should review the website of the nearest consulate or embassy to see if an emergency visa appointment is possible.

[**For New J-1 Exchange Visitors:**](#)

For new J-1 Exchange Visitors who can enter the U.S., please reconfirm your start date with your department before doing so.

[**Continued Operations at PIPS:**](#)

Advisors are still processing H-1B cases and J-1 renewal requests; we have adjusted our work flow to ensure employees do not fall out of status.

To reach an advisor with questions about your visa status, please email pips@partners.org.