

**From:** [Judy Bordeau](#)  
**To:** [Kimberly Connelly](#)  
**Subject:** Update on Presidential Proclamation Suspending Immigration  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:51:14 AM

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**Re: Proclamation Suspending Entry of Immigrants Who Present Risk to the U.S. Labor Market During the Economic Recovery Following the COVID-19 Outbreak**

On Sunday night, the President tweeted his intention to suspend immigration in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Since then, we have received numerous calls and e-mails from concerned clients. Late Tuesday evening, the Presidential Proclamation was published with additional details.

Prior to summarizing the Presidential Proclamation, we would like to thank all of you who are working to find scientific, technical and medical solutions to fight COVID-19 and to save lives, regardless of nationality, in the US and around the globe. Many individuals on the front lines in the United States are immigrants. According to a 2018 report published by the National Science Foundation, nearly 30% of scientists and engineers in the US are foreign born. The Migration Policy Institute reports that more than 16% of all health care workers in the United States are foreign born, including 21% of doctors. It is an honor for us to represent individuals, hospitals and businesses that are working hard to address the many problems resulting from the pandemic. We all owe a great debt to you.

Fortunately, the Proclamation is narrow in scope. Effective 11:59pm on April 23, 2020, and for 60 days thereafter, it suspends entry of individuals with *immigrant visas* who are coming to the United States for the *first time* as permanent residents. It does not apply to individuals who are already permanent residents, nor does it apply to individuals seeking adjustment of status who are granted permanent residency and obtain green cards from within the United States. It also does not apply to *nonimmigrant* visa holders, including H-1Bs, H-2Bs, L-1s, O-1, TNs and E-3s. Certain individuals are exempt from the proclamation, including spouses and children of US citizens, as well as doctors, nurses, healthcare workers and medical researchers engaged in COVID-19 related work.

**Most importantly, at this time the Proclamation does not directly change or impact the nonimmigrant status or the opportunity to seek permanent residency for anyone presently inside the United States.** It only impacts individuals applying for an *immigrant* visa abroad. Individuals seeking *nonimmigrant* visas abroad (including F-1/J-1/H-1B/H-2B/L-1/O-1) should be aware, however, that many US consulates have restricted nonimmigrant visa processing in light of COVID-19 concerns. Clients needing nonimmigrant visa stamping from outside the United States should nevertheless request consular appointments and contact our office if you experience difficulties obtaining the visa stamps.

In the coming weeks, we could see additional proposed measures, as the Proclamation directs various government agencies to review nonimmigrant programs and recommend other measures to stimulate the US economy and to prioritize US workers. Keep in mind, however, that government agencies must go through notice and comment rulemaking, which is usually a long process, before making any dramatic changes to the current immigration framework.

For the full text of the Proclamation, see: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential->

[actions/proclamation-suspending-entry-immigrants-present-risk-u-s-labor-market-economic-recovery-following-covid-19-outbreak/](#)

Please check our website at [www.kcvisa.com](http://www.kcvisa.com) for additional information. We will continue to post updates as they become available. And please stay safe in this unusual time.

Best regards,

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