

## COVID Vaccine No Longer Required for Adjustment of Status Applicants

On January 22, 2025, USCIS posted an alert pertaining to the I-693 immigration medical exam required for most individuals applying to become lawful permanent residents. USCIS indicates that they now **“waive[s] any and all requirements that applicants for adjustment of status ... present documentation ... that they received the COVID-19 vaccination.”** USCIS's alert goes on to explain that they will not “deny any adjustment of status application based on the applicant’s failure to present documentation that they received the COVID-19 vaccination.”

The immigration medical examination (Form I-693) is required for most individuals applying to become a lawful permanent resident both inside the United States and at consulates abroad. Since October 2021, USCIS has required applicants complete the COVID-19 vaccine series before a civil surgeon can complete an immigration medical examination. The COVID vaccine series was one of several vaccines required to complete the medical examination. USCIS requires any vaccine recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP). The ACIP is an advisory committee to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that recommends immunizations for the general U.S. population. The ACIP recommends new vaccines for the general U.S. population and then the CDC assesses whether these vaccines should be required for immigration purposes on a regular and on an as-needed basis according to specific criteria set by the CDC. In 2021, the CDC recommended the COVID vaccine series be required for immigration purposes. USCIS has updated that guidance and will no longer require the COVID vaccine series for those applying for lawful permanent residence.

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Please contact our Immigration team for assistance with these issues.



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