

U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has made exceptions to the Public Charge Rule. They encourages all those, including undocumented immigrants, to get tested and treated for the virus.

Here's what you need to know:

1. If you have flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath you should **call us at 707-303-3600 before** coming to an SRCH campus.

2. What is the Public Charge Rule? The new Public Charge Rule went into effect on February 24, 2020. It made certain government assistance programs and other factors eligible criteria for denying immigrants visa extensions or a green card. To find out more please visit <https://www.uscis.gov/greencard/public-charge>.

3. Testing, treatment or preventive services (if available) for Covid-19, coronavirus, WILL NOT negatively affect anyone as part of a future Public Charge assessment, even if this treatment is federally funded. This is in addition to existing exceptions to Public Charge in California. It is critical to get care from a provider if you have symptoms.

4. Other factors will also be included in this exception. If your place of employment closes down due to the virus, you lose your job, or you have to stop going to school, you may submit a statement along with your application to adjust your status or extend your visa explaining how the virus has affected your eligibility. Please contact legal services, such as California Human Development and Catholic Charities to learn more.

5. Continue practicing everyday preventive actions.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, counter tops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles).