



Created by thirddesign
from Noun Project

Immigrants and Coronavirus (COVID-19): You Can Get Care Without Fear

I don't have legal immigration status. Can I get tested for coronavirus?

Yes. Under the law, everyone is eligible for testing **and** treatment of communicable diseases, including coronavirus. This includes people without legal immigration status.

Vaccines for communicable diseases are also available to everyone. This is true no matter your immigration status. If a vaccine is developed for coronavirus, you and your family members should be able to get it, even if you don't have legal immigration status.

Will medical programs cover the costs of testing and treatment for coronavirus?

Yes. Washington Apple Health covers testing and treatment for coronavirus.

If you are not eligible for Washington Apple Health, you may be able to buy a Qualified Health Plan (private insurance) on [Washington Healthplanfinder](#). You can find more information here: www.wahealthplanfinder.org/content/special-enrollment-period.html.

If you don't have legal immigration status, you may be eligible for Emergency Medicaid. It covers testing and treatment of coronavirus in Washington state. You do not have to have legal immigration status to be eligible. Using it will not cause you problems with immigration.

If I get treated for coronavirus, will that count against me in the public charge test? Will it make it hard for me to get a Green Card?

No and no. Testing and treatment for coronavirus will not count against you in the public charge test. USCIS made a special announcement about this.

www.uscis.gov/greencard/public-charge

Not all immigrants are subject to the public charge test. To learn more, read [The New Public Charge Rule: What You Need to Know](#).

My family's income has gone down because of the coronavirus outbreak and lack of work. Will this be a problem in the public charge test?

Maybe not. USCIS says you can provide an explanation and/or documentation (proof) if the coronavirus outbreak has affected your economic situation. This could include less household income due to layoffs, or a temporary need to use cash assistance.

I need unemployment insurance benefits. Will this be a problem in the public charge test?

No! Unemployment insurance benefits don't count in the public charge test. They will not cause you problems with immigration. You can use unemployment benefits without fear.

My family receives pandemic electronic benefits (P-EBT) since the schools closed and my child did not get free or reduced fee school meals. Is this a problem for public charge?

No! P-EBT benefits are not considered in the public charge test -- just as school meal programs are not considered.

Isn't it a problem for immigrants to use medical benefits?

In most cases, no. For more information read [The New Public Charge Rule: What You Need to Know](#). Remember that testing and treatment for coronavirus is not considered in the public charge test. Medical benefits used by your family members also do not count. You and your family members should get the care you need without fear.

Is it safe for me to see a doctor if I need to?

Yes. Your doctor cannot share information about you, including your immigration status, without your permission.

Federal guidelines say that immigration officials cannot arrest people or do other enforcement activities at health care facilities like hospitals and clinics.

Is it safe for me to apply for medical benefits on Healthplanfinder for myself or my family?

Yes. The information on your application for medical benefits can only be used to decide if you are eligible for benefits. It cannot be shared with immigration officials.

Where can I learn more about coronavirus?

There is more information in a variety of languages here:

www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus.aspx.

This publication provides general information concerning your rights and responsibilities. It is not intended as a substitute for specific legal advice.

© 2020 Northwest Justice Project — 1-888-201-1014

(Permission for copying and distribution granted to the Alliance for Equal Justice and to individuals for non-commercial purposes only.)