

An Important Update on Public Charge and COVID-19

Covid-19 Services Will Not Be Included In Public Charge Test

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) recently posted an alert that it will **NOT** consider testing, treatment, nor preventative care (including vaccines, if a vaccine becomes available) related to COVID-19 as part of a public charge inadmissibility determination, even if the health care services are provided as part of Medi-Cal.

More information can be found here:

- USCIS Public Charge page: <https://www.uscis.gov/greencard/public-charge>
- National Immigration Law Center Update: <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/immigrant-access-to-health-care-update.pdf>

What Is Emergency Medi-Cal?

Emergency Medi-Cal is available to individuals who are otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal, except for their immigration status. An individual would have to meet the income and other categorical requirements for Medi-Cal in order to qualify.

Emergency Medi-Cal services cover a medical condition (including emergency labor and delivery) which, without immediate medical attention, could result in placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy, serious impairment to bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part¹.

It is important to note that Emergency Medi-Cal services are **NOT CONSIDERED** in a Public Charge determination.

How Can I Learn More About Public Charge?

You can find general information about Immigration and Public Charge at EHSD's Public Charge Landing Page: www.ehsd.org/charge

¹Social Security Act section 1903(V)(3)