



Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

Advancing the political agenda of Caribbean Americans

With the onslaught of COVID-19 pandemic, C-PAC recognizes that some of our Caribbean-American Diaspora members may be panicked and worried about the impact on their immigration status if they seek health care. This includes testing, treatment, and preventative care.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), has reported that immigration status will not be affected by those who seek public assistance for treatment or preventive services for COVID-19. The previous rule indicated that people seeking green cards would be disqualified if they used government benefits. This no longer holds true and will not apply to immigrants with symptoms of the coronavirus or the those diagnosed with virus itself.

Please be sure to keep and secure all of your documentation if you receive medical care for COVID-19. This is especially critical for those who cannot work or attend school and must rely on public benefits during the duration of the virus outbreak and recovery. According to the USCIS, your specific situation will be taken into consideration.

We urge all immigrants to seek care if needed. Your health and the health of your family members is most important, not only to you, but to your whole community. Also, do not hesitate to contact any local immigration offices if you have questions.

Here is how we all can help to reduce this public health threat, whether we have immigration concerns or not:

- **Wash your hands correctly and regularly.**
- **Steer clear of people who are ill.**
- **Keep away from gatherings – whether formal, social, or otherwise.**
- **Stay home if you are not feeling well.**
- **Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.**
- **Sanitize and disinfect surfaces and objects regularly.**
- **Seek immediate medical attention if you have a fever, difficulty breathing, aches and pains or dry cough.**

Get regular updates from these local resources

- **1. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**
 - <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/> (202-442-5955)
- **2. MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**
 - <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/> (410-767-6500)
- **3. VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**
 - <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>
(703-778-4554) **These are challenging times, but, together, we shall survive them.**

Be well and stay safe.