

The prevention or treatment for COVID-19 will NOT be used against immigrants in a public charge test.

Immigrant families should seek the medical care they need during this difficult time.

Use of Medical Services or Health Insurance

New York State has expanded Emergency Medicaid coverage to pay for COVID-19 testing and treatment. Additionally, many clinics and hospitals offer medical services by telemedicine or in person (if necessary). The services are free or low cost for individuals without health insurance and regardless of their immigration status.

For individuals with health insurance, health plans are waiving copayments for diagnostic tests and evaluations related to coronavirus.

WHAT IS PUBLIC CHARGE

Immigration officials use "public charge" or "public charge test" to decide whether a person can enter the United States or obtain a green card (legal permanent resident or "LPR" status).

APPLIES

When applying for a green card through a family or employment petition, either in the US or at a consulate or embassy abroad.

DOES NOT APPLY TO PEOPLE IN MANY STATUSES INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Survivors of Domestic Violence (VAWA)
- Victims of offenses/crimes (Visa U)
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

