

COVID-19 UPDATE: USCIS To Continue to Process Applications for Employment Authorization

By [Elizabeth M. Klarin](#)

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With USCIS application support centers closed and workplaces closed or fully remote throughout the nation, the public may be concerned about the continuity of USCIS operations due to the COVID-19 crisis. However, all indications show that USCIS continues to process petitions, applications and requests during this time. We have continued to receive approvals over the past several weeks despite the crisis. Furthermore, where possible, USCIS appears to be making adjustments to facilitate certain types of applications that might be impacted by the unavailability of in-person services at its field offices.

Today, [USCIS announced that it will reuse previously submitted biometrics](#) in order to process valid requests to extend employment authorization, due to the temporary closure of its Application Support Centers to the public in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Applicants who had an appointment scheduled with an ASC on or after March 18th, or who have filed an I-765 application to extend their current employment authorization, will have their application processed using previously submitted biometrics.

This policy is expected to remain in effect until ASCs are open again for appointments.

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