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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: September 23, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **COVID-19 Vaccination for Asylum Seekers**

At the recent Board meeting, during the COVID-19 update, discussion ensued regarding mandating COVID-19 vaccination for asylum seekers.

The attached release from US Citizenship and Immigration Services indicates that COVID-19 vaccination will be required for immigration medical examinations. (Attachment 1) In general, examinations are for individuals applying to become a lawful permanent resident or other applicants, which in our view includes asylum seekers as well as those deemed evacuees such as those from Afghanistan.

While we await further guidance, it is fairly clear that individuals seeking asylum should be fully vaccinated from COVID-19, with the exception of those who are ineligible due to age or contraindicated medical conditions. Beginning next week in the interim, Attachment 2 provides the messaging we plan to deliver to the individuals that are being served by Catholic Community Services and Casa Alitas.

CHH/anc

#### Attachments

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator  
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,  
Health and Community Services  
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department

# ATTACHMENT 1

[USCIS Response to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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# COVID-19 Vaccination Required for Immigration Medical Examinations

Release Date : 09/14/2021

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services today announced that, effective Oct. 1, 2021, applicants subject to the immigration medical examination must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before the civil surgeon can complete an immigration medical examination and sign [Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record](#).

We are updating our policy guidance in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Aug. 17, 2021 update to the [Technical Instructions for Civil Surgeons](#). That update requires applicants subject to the immigration medical examination to complete the COVID-19 vaccine series (one or two doses, depending on the vaccine) and provide documentation of vaccination to the civil surgeon before completion of the immigration medical examination. This requirement is effective Oct. 1, 2021, and applies prospectively to all Forms I-693 signed by the civil surgeons on or after that date. We are working on updating Form I-693 and the form instructions to incorporate this new requirement.

In general, individuals applying to become a lawful permanent resident, and other applicants as deemed necessary, must undergo an immigration medical examination to show they are free from any conditions that would render them inadmissible under the health-related grounds. USCIS designates eligible physicians as civil surgeons to perform this immigration medical examination for applicants within the United States and to document the results of the immigration medical examination on the Form I-693.

USCIS may grant blanket waivers if the COVID-19 vaccine is:

- Not age-appropriate;
- Contraindicated due to a medical condition;
- Not routinely available where the civil surgeon practices; or
- Limited in supply and would cause significant delay for the applicant to receive the vaccination.

Individuals may also apply for individual waivers based on religious beliefs or moral convictions by submitting [Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility](#).

For more information, see the [policy alert \(PDF, 969.45 KB\)](#).



# ATTACHMENT 2

## COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement

Starting on October 1, 2021, people coming to the United States to become residents or citizens, must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

You should get your COVID-19 vaccine *now*.

If you do not get vaccinated now, you have one year to become fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are not vaccinated during that time, then your legal process toward residence or citizenship will be delayed.

If you were vaccinated in a different country before coming to the United States, but do not have proof of vaccination, or have lost your COVID-19 vaccine card, we strongly encourage you to get vaccinated again to receive a new record. This record will be required for your Lawful Permanent Residence application.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may not require you to get the COVID-19 vaccine if:

- It is not available for your age group;
- It is not recommended due to a medical condition;
- It is not available where the health screening occurs; or
- If you have a waiver based on religious beliefs or moral convictions.