

**AILA Department of State Liaison Committee/National Visa Center Questions &
Answers Related to COVID-19**

April 28, 2020

Electronic Filing of Supporting Documents

1. Is it possible for NVC to accept electronic filing of supporting documents for older (pre-e-filing) cases during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Cases that were current prior to that processing post's migration to our new, digital platform cannot be migrated to the new system. An expansion of alternative forms of electronic submissions (such as through email), would not be appropriate in our current, limited operating environment.

Expedite IV Process for Healthcare Workers

2. Is it possible to expedite immigrant visa applications for healthcare workers? For example, could NVC processing be limited in the same manner as K-1 nonimmigrant visa applications are processed? Would it be possible for stakeholders to submit requests for such special processing through a designated email address such as NVCexpedite@state.gov, rather than using the Public Inquiry Form?

Healthcare worker beneficiaries of I-140 petitions may submit expedite requests to the Public Inquiry Form. We note that NVC is currently reviewing submissions from both the public and attorneys within two or three business days, however the processing consular section must authorize receipt of these cases. Capacity and operating status vary around the world according to local conditions. As with any case, we strongly recommend that the case parties continue with NVC procedures even after submission of an expedite request. If a request is approved by post for immediate transfer, payment of fees, completion of required forms, and submission of copies for required documents will not delay moving the case to post. In some cases, posts request that a case only be transferred when all required elements are present in the file at NVC.

Please note that we greatly appreciate AILA's assistance in urging its members to submit inquiries only with critical case updates or about urgent humanitarian concerns. NVC staff is trying to keep pace with a limited number of personnel and is unable to address case status or other informational inquiries where answers are available on travel.state.gov or where case parties can take action themselves in CEAC.

Software Upgrades to Online System

3. Are software upgrades to the online application and document filing system continuing during this period of health-related workplace restrictions?

All IT-related work continues but may be impacted by reprioritization and resource constraints arising from the COVID-19 national emergency.