



Providing Excellence to the Practice of Occupational Medicine

COVID -19 and Immigration

As Oregon Occupational Medicine, we understand that our current world circumstances regarding the pandemic of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) may bring up many questions about both occupational medicine and Immigration needs. Here are several frequently-asked questions, along with our answers, in hopes to address the current topics and concerns accurately.

FAQ's

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Are you still open and operating?

Yes. We are still open for business but are taking the utmost precaution with our staff and patients to ensure safety. The current concerns with COVID19 have caused us to enforce the following measures:

- Not currently testing or treating any patients for coronavirus/COVID 19 in our clinic. *(These are only services performed by Urgent Care Clinics or Emergency Rooms which we are not).*
- Verify all patients are healthy before appointments and upon arrival (confirming that patients are not currently have any cold or flu-like symptoms, have not traveled recently, or been around someone who is ill, etc.).
- Requesting that anyone who does not feel well or who has recently to wait to schedule for at least 2 weeks.
- Performing regular rigorous cleaning throughout the day
- Maintaining window barriers in the lobby
- Rooming patients and taking their temperatures immediately instead of having them sit in the lobby
- Limiting the number of people in our clinic lobby.
- Limiting the types of exams that we are performing during this time that could more easily transmit this contagious virus.

- Offering Telemedicine calls for certain kinds of appointments.

Are you still performing Medical Exams and Record Reviews for Immigration?

Yes, we are still scheduling Immigration exams at both of our Tualatin and Hillsboro clinics, as long as scheduled patients are not currently experiencing any flu-like symptoms, have not been around anyone currently experiencing flu-like symptoms over the past 2 weeks, nor have traveled recently.

Appointments can be scheduled via phone call or email between 8am and 3pm, Monday through Friday. All screenings and vaccinations are still available as usual.

<https://www.oregonocmed.com/immigration-exams/>

Will my immigration exam be any different because of the COVID-19 pandemic?

In many ways, the immigration exams will be the same as usual. Registration will be a bit more health-conscientious (see our current measures above), but the rest of the immigration exam remains the same: a basic health exam, discussion of your health with the Civil Surgeon, and review of your immigration records.

At the end of your time with the Civil Surgeon, you will receive the three screenings as required through blood draws and/or urine sample (Tuberculosis, Syphilis and Gonorrhea), and be informed of any vaccines you may be needing to be up-to-date. Please also note that as of October 1st, 2021, the CDC is also requiring all applicants to show proof of having completed a COVID-19 vaccines series as part of the standard vaccine requirements. Be prepared to include proof of this vaccine along with any previous vaccines received in the US or elsewhere. Most of the needed vaccines can be administered same-day in our clinics (if proof of the Covid-19 vaccine requirements have been previously met), or at a separate clinic depending on patient preference. We do not currently carry or administer any COVID-19 vaccines at our clinics.

(<https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/civil-surgeons/covid-19-technical-instructions.html>)

Will I be checked for COVID-19 during my Medical Exam?

It is the role of our Civil Surgeons to take a thorough travel history and detect any signs and symptoms of this infection among those being examined. Current requirements do not list a need for a laboratory to test for COVID-19 infection as part of the process, *but they do require proof of a completed COVID-19 vaccination series with one of the approved vaccines*. The Form I-693 that is used during the Physical Exam with the Civil Surgeon is being modified to include a specific section to confirm or deny the presence of COVID 19 symptoms or history, as well as vaccination status against this virus. Meanwhile, our Civil Surgeons will make note on the current form of an applicant's vaccination status, as well as any symptoms or concerns.

If the examination reveals an acute illness that makes it impossible to determine a person's medical status regarding Class A or B conditions, the Civil Surgeon will require the person to get medical treatment until they have recovered. This means that if any alien is currently ill, including persons suspected of having COVID-19, they should seek medical care for their infection and return for their Civil Surgeon examination when they are well.

<https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/ti/civil/technical-instructions/civil-surgeons/medical-history-physical-examination.html?deliveryName=DM21276>

Do I need a vaccine for COVID in order to be up-to-date for immigration standards?

Yes. As of October 1st, 2021, all eligible applicants must have COMPLETED a COVID-19 vaccination series before civil surgeon classification, signature, and date. Depending upon which of the three approved vaccines is chosen (or available), ***there may be a delay in the administration of other required vaccines doses***. Please note that we do not currently carry or administer any COVID-19 vaccines at our clinics, so this vaccine must be administered at a separate location.

- **Pfizer** Dose 1 is given alone. Other required vaccines can be given on the same day as Pfizer Dose 2, at least 21 days later.
- **Moderna** Dose 1 is given alone. Other required vaccines can be given on the same day as Moderna Dose 2, at least 28 days later.
- **Janssen/Johnson & Johnson**: Single Dose. Other required vaccines can be given on the same date as this single-dose vaccine.

See <https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/civil-surgeons/covid-19-technical-instructions.html>

What if the COVID-19 pandemic delays my immigration process?

It is important that you consult with your legal advisor for how to continue fulfilling the steps needed for Adjustment of Status, even with the COVID 19 pandemic. Many scheduled appointments are being rescheduled, but compliance is still required for different aspects of the AOS immigration process.

<https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus>

<https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-coronavirus-2019-covid-19>

Additional Reference Websites:

CDC COVID-19 website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

CDC Travelers' Health website: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>