

USCIS Suspends Premium Processing for I-129 and I-140 Petitions

By [Elizabeth M. Klarin](#)

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Due to the COVID-19 crisis, USCIS has [temporarily suspended its premium processing service](#) for all form I-129 (nonimmigrant worker) and I-140 (immigrant worker) petitions.

Petitions for forms I-129- or I-140-related premium processing that were mailed prior to March 20th, but which were not yet accepted for processing as of Friday (March 20th), will be rejected. Petitioners who already filed form I-129 or form I-140 whose cases are not adjudicated within the 15-calendar-day period for normal premium processing will have their premium processing fees refunded.

This temporary suspension includes petitions filed for the following categories:

- **I-129:** E-1, E-2, H-1B, H-2B, H-3, L-1A, L-1B, LZ, O-1, O-2, P-1, P-1S, P-2, P-2S, P-3, P-3S, Q-1, R-1, TN-1 and TN-2 petitions
- **I-140:** EB-1, EB-2 and EB-3 preference category petitions

The regular processing time for most I-129 nonimmigrant petitions in the above categories is estimated at between 3 weeks and 11 months, depending on the type of petition and location of filing. Regular processing of I-140 immigrant petitions is estimated to take between 4 and 7.5 months currently. You can check the processing times based on the type of form and required filing location at <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/>.

There is no information about when USCIS anticipates it will resume its premium processing service for the above-listed petition types. Lippes Mathias will continue to monitor the situation and post on this blog when we have updates on the availability of USCIS premium processing.

Please reach out to the immigration team at Lippes Mathias for additional information on this and other COVID-19-related immigration news.

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