Based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) updated guidance, USCIS is opening its doors to “unmasked,” “fully vaccinated” people.

According to USCIS’ new visitor policy:

- Fully vaccinated people (those who are at least two weeks out from a dose of a single-dose vaccine or the second dose in a two-dose vaccine series) no longer need to wear face coverings in USCIS facilities.

- Individuals over two years old who are not fully vaccinated must still wear face coverings, and those face coverings must meet USCIS standards.

In addition:
• Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-19 symptoms who have returned from domestic or international air travel or cruise ship travel in the previous 10 days may enter USCIS facilities.

• Fully vaccinated people who have been in close contact with anyone known to have COVID-19 in the previous 14 days also may enter USCIS facilities.

This should ease some of the problems that have arisen for those who need to attend USCIS appointments but have also had to travel or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 – as long as they are fully vaccinated.

Of course, there are still restrictions including:

• Individuals with appointments may only be accompanied by an attorney, interpreter, parent or legal guardian, dependents listed on the interview notice, or someone assisting a disabled person to allow for social distancing.

• No guests are allowed at naturalization ceremonies other than individuals assisting disabled persons – again, to allow for social distancing.

• Those who are feeling sick are told not to come to any USCIS office, but they will be able to reschedule appointments with no penalty.

• Individuals who have been instructed to self-isolate or self-quarantine within the previous 14 days will not be allowed to enter a USCIS facility.

Jackson Lewis P.C. © 2021

National Law Review, Volume XI, Number 148