



1.888.241.6930

www.iaame.net

**Intercountry Adoption Accreditation and Maintenance Entity, Inc.**

**March 18, 2022**

## **IAAME Updated Messaging COVID-19 Pandemic Response**

Due to the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operations of Adoption Service Providers (ASPs), IAAME is continuing to modify various deadlines and other requirements where possible.

### **Accreditation and Approval On-site and Desk Reviews**

IAAME requested a waiver of the physical site visit requirements from the Secretary for ASPs whose accreditation or approval is set to expire in 2022 and those waivers were approved by the Secretary. ASPs scheduled to complete an accreditation or approval review with a 2022 expiration date should plan on IAAME conducting a virtual desk review in lieu of a physical site visit, unless otherwise communicated.

IAAME has not requested any additional waivers of physical site visit requirements at this time. ASPs whose accreditation or approval is set to expire in 2023 or later, should plan for IAAME to schedule and conduct a physical site visit. IAAME staff will be in communication with those ASPs to make travel accommodations and plan physical on-site reviews.

IAAME continues to monitor the situation, considering many variables including rising incidences of Covid-19 cases within the United States and the increase of cases attributed to the BA.2 variant. IAAME will continue to work in close consultation with the Department of State to determine continued safety of travel, and any additional precautionary measures that may be necessary moving forward. Any future decisions regarding travel for on-site reviews will be communicated to ASPs.

### **Timeframes for Submission of Information to IAAME**

IAAME will continue to utilize timeframes established within its external policies posted on our website IAAME.net. We will continue to provide opportunities for flexibility in required timeframes for submission of information to IAAME in circumstances where an ASP believes its ability to meet a required timeframe is impacted by COVID-19-related issues. In such circumstances, the ASP may reach out to its assigned Analyst to request a specific extension of the timeframe, noting the reason for the anticipated delay. IAAME management will review each request and approve such extensions on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration whether an extension of the timeframe is feasible given any deadlines IAAME is required to meet as required by the Department of State, requirements in 22 CFR 96, or if it may impact an ASP's accreditation or approval status.

### **Child Safety and Risk to Children**

As an Accrediting Entity, IAAME is required to act immediately when it determines an ASP's actions create an immediate child safety-related risk.

### **Ongoing Monitoring of this Plan**

IAAME will reassess the effects of COVID-19 on IAAME and ASP operations on an ongoing basis in 2022. If changes are made that would impact the above notice, IAAME will send updated communication to all ASPs via a Portal Newsfeed post. If ASPs have questions related to individual circumstances, they may contact the assigned IAAME Analyst.