A valid unexpired U.S. entry visa is *not* required if you travel to contiguous territory – Canada or Mexico – for less than 30 days. This is known as “automatic extension of (visa) validity” or “automatic (visa) revalidation.” These guidelines apply to current H-1B and O-1 workers whether they entered the U.S. as H-1B or O-1, or later changed status to H-1B or O-1. **NOTE** that this benefit does *not* extend to travel to the Caribbean Islands.

You may reenter the U.S. from Canada or Mexico without a valid visa provided:

1) Your stay in Canada or Mexico is **for less than 30 days**.
2) You are *not* a citizen of Iran, Syria, Sudan or Cuba, or other country designated as a state sponsor of terrorism by the Department of State (http://www.state.gov/s/ct/).
3) You **maintained** your H-1B or O-1 nonimmigrant status when last in the U.S. and intend to resume your H-1B or O-1 activity upon reentry.
4) You apply for readmission within your initial admission or extension of stay (i.e., not after your approval has expired.)
5) Your visa was *not* cancelled or otherwise declared inadmissible to the U.S. under Section 212(a) or 212(d)(3)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). **Note:** Do not confuse 212(a) with 212(e). Automatic revalidation applies even if you are subject to 212(e).
6) You do *not* apply for a new visa in Mexico or Canada during your visit. If you apply for a new U.S. visa while in one of these countries, you must wait for a decision before being eligible to reenter the U.S. Individuals subject to security or technology checks (performed as part of the visa application process) may experience delays of 30 to 120 additional business days or more in some cases, while the visa application is being reviewed. If the visa application is denied, you cannot reenter the U.S. until you obtain a new entry visa from the U.S. Consulate or Embassy in your home country. That is, if denied, you must travel to your home country for a new visa in order to reenter the U.S. For more information on visa applications, go to http://travel.state.gov/.

When traveling on a cruise ship, check with the carrier for any immigration restrictions before booking your trip. Depending upon where the cruise docks, automatic revalidation may *not* be available.

Please inform the DIS of your travel plans at least **2 weeks** in advance. When reentering the U.S. from Canada or Mexico using automatic visa revalidation, the documentation to present should include:

1) Original Form I-94 or printout of your I-94 electronic record. **DO NOT SURRENDER YOUR ORIGINAL FORM I-94 TO IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS UPON DEPARTURE FROM THE UNITED STATES**
   ➢ Carry a copy of the original I-94 and provide it if your I-94 information is requested. If your last entry to the U.S. was under I-94 automation, carry a 2nd printout of your electronic I-94 and provide it if requested. Guidance about the electronic Form I-94 is available at http://www.ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dis/VisitingScientists/Documents/Automated%20I-94_Flyer.pdf.
2) Valid passport
3) Original, valid Form I-797 H-1B or O-1 Approval Notice
4) Current letter of employment explaining that you are currently employed by NIH in the same position as described in the H-1B or O-1 petition, and that you must enter the U.S. to continue that employment. The letter should include a brief description of your research activities at NIH (request from your Institute/Center; a sample can be found at http://www.ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dis/VisitingScientists/Documents/SampleLetterTravel.doc)
5) Identification Badge (ID) badge
6) Copy of most recent pay stub
7) If H-1B, copy of Labor Condition Application (LCA)
8) If H-1B, and if applicable, original Form I-797 Approval Notice for a Waiver the Foreign Residence Requirement (Form I-612)

Automatic revalidation is not valid to travel from a contiguous territory (ex: Canada) to a non-contiguous country (ex: Germany) and return to the U.S. via a contiguous territory. The use of automatic revalidation to enter the U.S. after travel to a third country is a violation of immigration laws that may lead to deportation.

Citizens of certain countries require an entry visa to enter Canada (http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/) or Mexico (http://www.embassyofmexico.org/). Please contact the appropriate consulate for entry requirements.