

April 2021

# Consular Newsletter



Dear readers, my name is Charles A. Thomas, and I am the Nonimmigrant Visa Unit Chief at the U.S. Embassy in Port au Prince. First, I want to thank all our consular customers for their patience as we work to serve the public while trying to mitigate the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. When I arrived in Haiti this past summer, the Embassy was only conducting emergency nonimmigrant visa appointments. I am happy to report the results of my team's efforts and dedication during these months: we are now conducting student and exchange visitor nonimmigrant visa interviews. In addition, we are accepting [Interview Waiver/Visa Renewal](#) applications on a limited basis.

The U.S. Department of State and this Embassy recognize the immense importance of international travel and commerce to the United States. However, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to require unprecedented actions to protect both United States and Haitian citizens. Like many of you, we have been closely following the [updated guidance from the CDC](#) regarding how the pandemic affects us at home and during travel. As of this writing, [nearly 140 million U.S. citizens](#) (more than 40% of the country) have received at least one dose of an FDA-approved vaccine, and [95 million are fully vaccinated](#). However, [according to the CDC](#), "even fully vaccinated travelers are at increased



*Pictured: Charles A. Thomas, Chief, Nonimmigrant Visa Unit*

risk for getting and possibly spreading new COVID-19 variants." To travel to the United States, fully vaccinated individuals still need to show a negative test result (rapid antigen) taken within 72 hours of travel before boarding a flight to the United States. The Government of Haiti also requires negative COVID-19 tests from all passengers prior to boarding flights coming to Haiti. We will continue to update COVID-19 information for the

United States and Haiti on the [Embassy's COVID-19 webpage](#), where you can find useful links to the CDC and other resources.

As a result of the pandemic's effects, and in order to protect our staff and our clients, the U.S. Embassy must continue to limit the number of visa (and other) appointments each day. As things evolve, we will continue to update applicants via our website and social media, and you can always find the most current status of services on the [Embassy's website](#).

Finally, as a reminder, the U.S. Department of State's travel advisory for Haiti remains at the most severe level, which is "**Level 4: Do Not Travel**" due to kidnapping, crime, and civil unrest. We urge anyone who is considering travel to Haiti to read through the State Department's [travel advisory](#) and to sign up for our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP).

We wish you good health and our best regards.

## Celebrating Arab American Heritage Month



### April is Arab American Heritage Month:

The culture of Arab Americans is being honored this month with the designation by the U.S. State Department of April as Arab American Heritage Month. "The United States is home to more than 3.5 million Arab

Americans representing a diverse array of cultures and traditions. Like their fellow citizens, Americans of Arab heritage are very much a part of the fabric of this nation," shared State Department spokesperson, Ned Price on April 1 (view video address [here](#)). This is the first time the State Department has designated a particular month in honor of Arab Americans. States that have recognized April as Arab American History Month in 2021 and years past include Arkansas, Hawaii, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, and Virginia. Arab Americans trace their origins to 22 Arabic-speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa. While the State Department made this historic announcement, Arab American Heritage Month is not yet officially recognized by the entire U.S. government (a bill was introduced to Congress in 2019 and is still pending).

Haiti is estimated to have about 257,000 residents of Arab heritage. The Arab-Haitian population is comprised of those descending from Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian traders who began to arrive in Haiti and elsewhere in the Caribbean in the late nineteenth century.

## Opportunity for American Citizens in Nippes Department

The U.S. Embassy's Citizen Liaison Volunteer (CLV) program is looking for U.S. citizen volunteers residing in Nippes Department to help us cover this area of Haiti. CLVs are responsible for alerting citizens in their area of any important security updates as well for assisting the Embassy in communicating with citizens during crisis situations. We currently do not have any volunteers in the Nippes Department and need your help.



If interested, please email [CLVpap@state.gov](mailto:CLVpap@state.gov) at your earliest convenience. Thank you for considering joining the CLV team!

## Ask the Consul: Passport Application & Renewal



Each month we'll be answering some of your frequently asked questions. For April, we're focusing on the U.S. Passport application and renewal process for those in need of U.S. travel documents. ***Please note that all forms must be properly filled out prior to arrival at the Embassy as we have limited waiting room capacity due to COVID-19 precautions.***

**Q: How do I apply for my child's first U.S. passport?**

**A:** If your child was born in Haiti, the first step is to apply for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, which includes a passport application. [Click here](#) to see the checklist of all the documents you need and to make an appointment online. Please come with the [DS-2029](#) and the [DS-11](#) already filled out.

**Q: How and when do I apply to renew my passport?**

**A: Please apply early!** Our next available appointments are about two months away, and then it takes 2-3 weeks to receive your new passport. For regular adult passport renewals, you can come to the Embassy any Friday between 10-11am with the [DS-82 already filled out](#), \$110, two new passport photos, and your old passport. For all other renewals, please make an appointment [on our website](#). Choose "Passport services other than adding pages."

**Q: My child is in the United States and needs my authorization to renew his or her passport. How do I give my authorization if I can't be there in person??**

**A:** For a child under 16 years old, the law requires the consent and signatures of both parents. If a parent cannot be present at the child's passport appointment, that parent must fill out and notarize a [DS-3053 Statement of Consent](#). This can be notarized by any notary in the United States. In Haiti, it can only be notarized at the U.S. Embassy. At the appointment, you must bring the original form – not a scan, copy, or email. To complete a Statement of Consent at the U.S. Embassy, please make an appointment on our website at <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/>. Choose "Request notarial and other services not listed above."

For more information about U.S. Passport Services, go to:

- [U.S. Embassy Passport Services](#)
- [Make an Appointment](#)
- Email: [acspap@state.gov](mailto:acspap@state.gov)
- [Passport forms](#)

**Q: I previously received an Emergency passport; how do I renew that?**

**A:** If you received an Emergency passport, you have one year from issuance to renew it, at no charge, for a full-validity passport. It is expected that you renew it as soon as possible. If your one year has expired, you will need to pay for the passport renewal. Please make an appointment on our website at: <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/>. Choose "Passport services other than adding pages."

# Travel & Security

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### Haiti – Level 4: Do Not Travel

The U.S. Department of State has renewed the highest level “[Level 4: Do Not Travel](#)” travel advisory for Haiti due to kidnapping, crime, and civil unrest.

#### If you are in Haiti...

- Remember that demonstrations, tire burning, and roadblocks are frequent, unpredictable, and can turn violent at any time. Emergency response, including ambulance service, is limited or non-existent.
- Always carry your cell phone and ensure it is charged before you travel. Ensure you have important numbers programmed into your phone. Consider using code names for family or friends.
- Avoid demonstrations and crowds. If you encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area.
- Arrange airport transfers and hotels in advance, or have your host meet you upon arrival.
- Travel by vehicle to minimize walking in public, and travel in groups of at least two people, whenever possible.
- Always keep vehicle doors and windows locked, with valuables out of sight.
- Exercise caution and alertness, especially when driving through markets and other traffic-congested areas.
- Do not physically resist any robbery attempt/kidnapping.
- Do not travel in areas unfamiliar to you and be aware that navigation apps are highly unreliable in Haiti.
- Always make sure your vehicle is in good driving condition.
- Travel at times when traffic is expected to be lighter and avoid travel after dark in Port au Prince.
- Ensure adequate spacing between vehicles to provide options for evading a potentially dangerous situation.
- Patronize shops or restaurants that provide secure, enclosed, and well-lit parking.
- Always inform someone, such as a family member or friend, of where you are going and what time you expect to return. Minimize broadly publishing your travel plans on social media.
- **Enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)** to receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in Haiti, and help the Embassy contact you in the case of emergency. To enroll, visit: [step.state.gov](https://step.state.gov), or click the image below.



## Health Resources & COVID-19

- 👉 **COVID-19:** For updated information about COVID-19 in Haiti, including where to get tested, entry/exit requirements, and quarantine information, [please visit the Embassy website](#).
- 👉 Make sure you are current on your vaccines, including tetanus and rabies. Treatment for prevention of rabies after you have been potentially exposed is non-existent in Haiti.
- 👉 Know where doctors and the closest emergency room are in your area. Please visit the [Embassy website](#) for a list of hospitals and medical professionals in Haiti.
- 👉 Always keep basic medications and supplies on hand. Invest in a quality first aid kit and keep one in your car and at home.
- 👉 Always have medical insurance, including medevac insurance. If you need to be medically evacuated out of Haiti, you should contact a medevac company or an air ambulance service. Visit the U.S. Embassy website for a list of [Air Ambulance Services](#).

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



### 3 Haiti – Level 3: High Level of COVID-19

The CDC has issued a Level 3 health advisory for Haiti. Travelers should reconsider travel to Haiti. Travel may increase chances of getting and spreading COVID-19.



*“The world has to come together to bring the COVID pandemic to an end everywhere.”*

Secretary of State  
**Antony J. Blinken**

(Photo: State Dept./Ron Prizysucha)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Embassy Address:

U.S. Embassy Port au Prince  
Boulevard du 15 Octobre  
Tabarre 41, Route de Tabarre, Port au Prince, Haiti

### Online Resources:

- ✓ U.S. Embassy Port au Prince's website: [ht.usembassy.gov](http://ht.usembassy.gov)
- ✓ American Citizen Services (ACS) website: [ht.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services](http://ht.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services)
- ✓ U.S. Embassy Port au Prince on Facebook: [facebook.com/USEmbassyHaiti](https://facebook.com/USEmbassyHaiti)
- ✓ ACS on Facebook: [facebook.com/ACSPortauPrince](https://facebook.com/ACSPortauPrince)
- ✓ Haiti Travel Advisory: [travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-advisory.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-advisory.html)

To respond to your inquiry most effectively, we strongly encourage you to write to our topic-specific electronic mailboxes as follows:

- ✓ American Citizen Services: [acspap@state.gov](mailto:acspap@state.gov)
- ✓ Visas: [support-haiti@ustraveldocs.com](mailto:support-haiti@ustraveldocs.com)

**In case of a life or death emergency regarding U.S. citizens in Haiti, please call: +509-2229-8000**



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