

August 2021

Consular Newsletter



Earthquake Response: Updates from the U.S. Embassy

❖ USAID Administrator Samantha Power Travels to Haiti – August 26, 2021

“On August 26, Administrator Samantha Power traveled to Haiti, where USAID is leading the U.S. government response to the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck August 14. While in Haiti, Administrator Power met with Haitians affected by the disaster, as well as Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry and other Haitian government officials. She also met with those contributing to the U.S. response on the ground, including the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), members of the U.S. military, and USAID staff based in Haiti. During her visit, Administrator Power emphasized the U.S. commitment to supporting the people of Haiti during their time of need and announced \$32 million in new humanitarian assistance from USAID to support earthquake response efforts.” – [USAID Press Release](#)



Pictured: Samantha Power, U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator, speaking in Port Au Prince.

❖ U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Statement on Haiti – August 14, 2021

“In what is already a challenging time for the people of Haiti, I am saddened by the devastating earthquake that occurred in Saint-Louis du Sud, Haiti this morning. We send our deepest condolences to all those who lost a loved one or saw their homes and businesses destroyed. I have authorized an immediate US response and named USAID Administrator Samantha Power as the senior US official to coordinate this effort.

Through USAID, we are supporting efforts to assess the damage and assist efforts to recover those who were injured and those who must now rebuild. The United States remains a close and enduring friend to the people of Haiti, and we will be there in the aftermath of this tragedy.” - [The White House](#)

Letter from Consul General John Whiteley

Hello, everyone. I am John Whiteley, the new Consul General at the U.S. Embassy in Port au Prince. It is an honor to serve in this new capacity here in Haiti.

After the August 14 earthquake, at the request of the Government of Haiti, President Biden immediately mobilized a U.S. government response, sending a team of elite USAID disaster response experts to conduct damage assessments and coordinate with government officials to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance. The U.S. military, also at the request of the Government of Haiti, is supporting the response through its Joint Task Force - Haiti. As our Ambassador, Michele Sison, said, “all of us at U.S. Embassy Port au Prince are sharing our condolences with all of those in the South who lost loved ones.”

If you are looking for ways to help, the [Center for International Disaster Information](#) has information on how you can contribute, including a current list of organizations that are responding in Haiti, as well as details of how different organizations use donations.

Such a crisis is a stark reminder that we must all continue to stay prepared for any emergency situation. We are in the middle of hurricane season, and if you must travel to Haiti, I urge you to sign up for the State Department’s Safe Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)), so you will receive all of the security, travel, and weather alerts from the U.S. Embassy.

I also must remind you that Haiti continues to have the highest (Level 4) [Travel Advisory](#), “**Do Not Travel**” due to kidnappings, crime, civil unrest, and COVID-19.

To help you stay prepared, this newsletter includes guidance on creating a “go bag” - a bag that contains

everything needed to survive if a crisis occurs, which can be grabbed in an instant. We recommend that every U.S. citizen living, working, or traveling in Haiti keeps a go bag at the ready. It is especially important to check that your travel documents are up to date and valid. If you need to make an appointment for a passport, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or other service, you can do so on the [Embassy website](#).



Pictured: A member of the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team on August 23, 2021.

This month’s “Ask the Consul” section focuses on what services we can – and cannot – provide to U.S. citizens in Haiti. If there is an immediate security concern or you run into trouble, U.S. citizens must rely primarily – and potentially solely – on local authorities and resources for assistance. We want you to know exactly where to find the resources you need and stay prepared.

The [Embassy website](#) is always the best place to find information about our services and operating status. The website includes a list of emergency numbers, resources about legal assistance, information about medical assistance, and more.

On the COVID-19 front, the United States [delivered the first 500,000 doses](#) of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to Haiti through COVAX. Vaccines are currently being administered across the country in all 10 departments. The [CDC](#) now recommends that everyone 16 years of age and older get fully vaccinated for COVID-19. The CDC’s health advisory also states, “Make sure you are fully vaccinated before traveling to Haiti. Unvaccinated travelers should avoid nonessential travel to Haiti.” You can find updated information, including where to get vaccinated, on our [COVID-19 Information page](#) on the Embassy website.

Ask the Consul: Special Citizen Services & TPS

Each month we'll be answering some of your frequently asked questions. This month we're focusing on what the U.S. Embassy can do for U.S. citizens in Haiti, and the recent extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

Q: What are Special Citizen Services?

A: "Special Citizen Services" include the help we provide when there is a death of a U.S. citizen here in Haiti, a serious injury of a U.S. citizen, if a U.S. citizen is a victim of a crime, or even arrested.

Q: I have a medical emergency. How can you help?

A: If you need emergency medical attention, please see our [list of physicians and hospitals in Haiti](#). For non-emergency situations, refer to our [list of medical professionals](#) that operate in Haiti. If you need to be medically evacuated out of Haiti, you should contact a medevac company, an air ambulance service, or a charter airline.

Q: My loved one, who was a U.S. citizen, has died in Haiti. What can you do to assist?

A: Please report the death of a U.S. citizen, whether a resident of Haiti or a tourist, so we can issue a "[Consular Report of Death of an American Citizen](#)." This document is necessary to settle legal and estate matters in the U.S. We can also assist family and friends in the event of the death of a U.S. citizen in Haiti. We can act as a liaison in arranging the disposition of remains and help with forwarding personal effects.

Q: I have been arrested in Haiti. What should I do?!

A: When a U.S. citizen is arrested in Haiti, please immediately inform the U.S. Embassy by calling +509-2229-8000. Consular officers will make every effort to help, although we cannot exert influence on the Haitian judicial process. When traveling in Haiti, you are subject to the laws and legal system of Haiti and do not enjoy any protections under U.S. law. Consular officers cannot offer legal advice, act as legal advocates, or demand the release of a U.S. Citizen. We do offer resources, such as a list of attorneys, [on our website](#) and regularly visit all U.S. citizens incarcerated in Haiti.

Q: What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

A: On August 3, 2021, the Department of Homeland Security announced that the Secretary of Homeland Security designated Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months, effective August 3, 2021, through February 3, 2023. This designation allows eligible Haitian nationals (and individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) who have continuously resided in the United States since July 29, 2021, and who have been continuously physically present in the United States since August 3, 2021, to apply for TPS.

The granting of TPS does not result in or lead to lawful permanent resident status. It is temporary, and those granted TPS must depart the U.S. after the designation comes to an end.



For more information about special citizen services, go to:

- [Death of a U.S. Citizen](#)
- [Arrest of a U.S. Citizen](#)
- [Medical Assistance](#)

Q: Who can apply for Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for Haiti?

A: Individuals who attempt to travel to the U.S. after July 29, 2021, will not be eligible for TPS and may be subject to expulsion or removal. TPS is a temporary immigration status granted to eligible nationals of a foreign state designated for TPS under the Immigration and Nationality Act. For more information, please see refer to the [USCIS press release](#).

Health Resources & COVID-19

- 👉 **COVID-19:** For updated information about COVID-19 in Haiti, including **where to get vaccinated**, where to get tested, entry/exit requirements, and quarantine information, [please visit the Embassy website](#). The COVID-19 vaccine is currently available in Haiti at more than 20 locations, in various cities. The U.S. government does not plan to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to private U.S. citizens overseas. Please follow host country developments and guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination.

Additional health guidance:

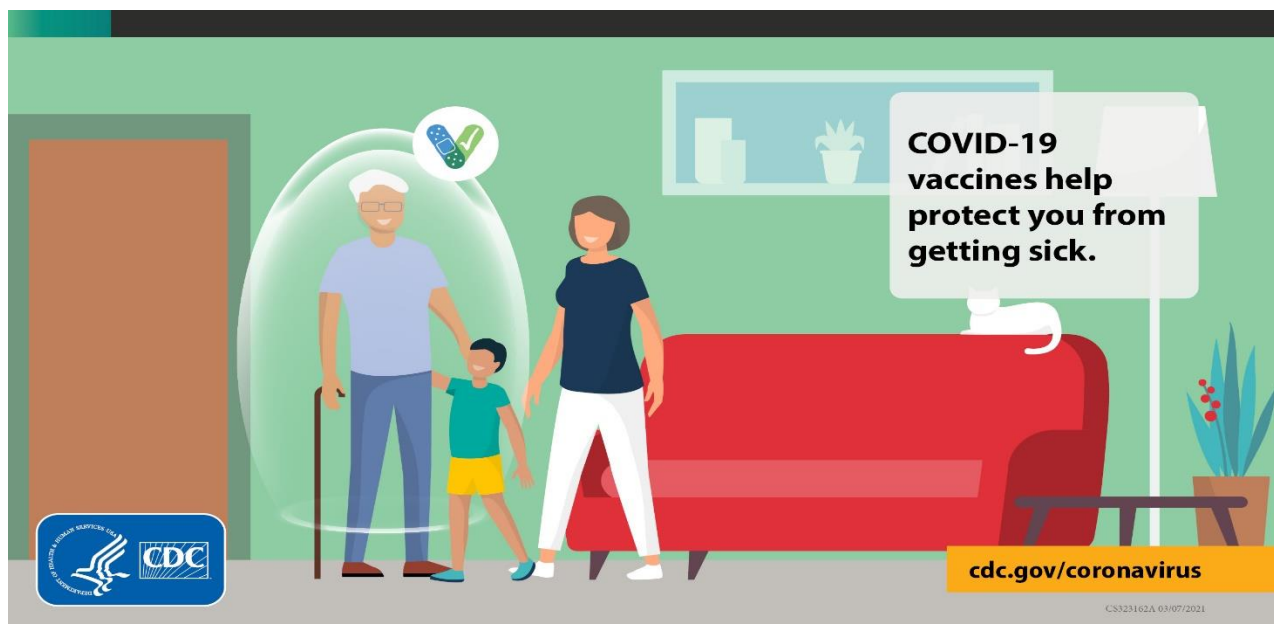
- 👉 Make sure you are current on your vaccines, including tetanus and rabies. Treatment for prevention of rabies after you have been potentially exposed is non-existent in Haiti.
- 👉 Know where doctors and the closest emergency room are in your area. Please visit the [Embassy website](#) for a list of 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](#).

4 Haiti – Level 4: Very High Level of COVID-19

The CDC has issued a [Level 4 health advisory](#) for Haiti. Avoid travel to Haiti. If you must travel to Haiti, make sure you are fully vaccinated.



cdc.gov/coronavirus



Travel & Safety

What should go in your “Go Bag”?

Be as prepared as possible: put together your “go bag” today! Get a duffel bag, backpack – anything you can grab in an instant – and pack it with the essentials you would need to survive an emergency for 72 hours. Remember your passport, important documents, chargers, and important contact information.

Each family member, including pets and kids, should have their own bag.

Plan to update your emergency go bag every six months to ensure that all food, water, and medication are fresh, all clothing fits, personal documents and credit cards are up to date, and batteries are charged.



Five Things to Consider *Before* Traveling Abroad During Atlantic Hurricane Season

1. Be informed.
2. Consider purchasing additional travel insurance.
3. Prepare an emergency plan.
4. Monitor local news sources and the National Hurricane Center.
5. Sign up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).



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, and COVID-19.

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, or click the image below.



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
- ✓ American Citizen Services (ACS) website: ht.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services
- ✓ U.S. Embassy Port au Prince on Facebook: facebook.com/USEmbassyHaiti
- ✓ ACS on Facebook: facebook.com/ACSPortauPrince
- ✓ Haiti Travel Advisory: 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 e-mail addresses as follows:

- ✓ American Citizen Services: acspap@state.gov
- ✓ Visas: support-haiti@ustraveldocs.com

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



***Disclaimer:** This newsletter is published by the Consular section of the U.S. Embassy in Port au Prince as a service for U.S. citizens living or traveling in Haiti. It provides security and other general information to people who have subscribed by enrolling with the Embassy. Please feel free to pass it along to other interested people. If you would like to receive your own copy directly, enroll with the Embassy through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)). Comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter are welcomed at acspap@state.gov.*