

ACS NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Greetings from your American Embassy in Port-au-Prince. I hope you and your families are well. Ensuring the safety and security of American citizens is one of our top priorities, and we are honored to serve you. In March, as a result of the challenges presented by the ongoing worldwide coronavirus pandemic, the Department of State instructed all Embassies and Consulates to suspend routine consular services, including routine (non-urgent) services for U.S. citizens. We continue to provide emergency services for American citizens living, working, and traveling to Haiti, and stand ready to assist you in any way we can. However, this suspension of routine services will remain in effect until we are able to resume operations while still protecting the health and safety of both consular customers and our employees. We will continue to communicate with you regarding our current posture and invite you to regularly visit our website



at <https://ht.usembassy.gov> for further information on our consular operations and COVID-19.

Over my two and a half years here, I have had the pleasure of meeting a number of you and of hearing directly from you on your concerns and perspectives. I've also appreciated the opportunity to share updates on the activities and issues we work on at the Embassy. As in many other countries, crime continues to be a challenge in Haiti, and I urge all American citizens in the country to enroll in STEP at www.step.gov. This will ensure you receive all of the

latest security alerts issued by the Embassy. Implementing good security practices and maintaining a high level of vigilance are important factors in protecting our families, regardless of where we are in the world and ourselves.

As Americans, we are all ambassadors of goodwill, representing our country in Haiti. I look forward to keeping in touch with you via our American Citizen Services (ACS) newsletters, as well as through the Embassy's various social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. I encourage you to reach out to us not only if you need assistance, but also to share with us some of your experiences in this beautiful country. We have welcomed a new Deputy Chief of Mission, Nicole Theriot, and a new Consul General, Ms. Colombia Barrosse in the past two months, and I know that they, too, look forward to meeting you.

CONSULAR SERVICES UPDATE

U.S. citizens seeking passport and notarial services should visit <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/> to schedule an appointment.

U.S. citizens with a life or death emergency, please contact American Citizen Services at 509-2229-8000 during business hours and after hours. During business hours you can us e-mail us at acspap@state.gov.

Due to COVID-19, and the need to protect the health of our applicants and our staff, the Embassy is limiting visa services to those related to urgent travel. All non-emergency visa services are still suspended. Please refer to our website for additional and updated information.

ARE YOU A SMART TRAVELER?

The Smart Traveler Enrollment System (STEP) re-places the Internet Based Registration System and provides the same great service. Enrolling in STEP is voluntary and costs nothing, but it should be a big part of your travel planning and security. By entering your information into STEP the Embassy will be better able to assist you in case of an emergency. By informing us about your trip or residence abroad, you help us locate you when you might need us the most. All the personal information you provide to us is protected under the Privacy Act of 1974. This law prohibits us from sharing the information with anyone without your written authorization. Certain exceptions exist, such as when we need to share information on a limited basis in order to protect your safety and welfare in extreme circumstances. Enrolling with Embassy Port-au-Prince through STEP also puts you on our email list. We notify American citizens of threats to their safety and security, as well as provide information on upcoming Embassy outreach events through Warden messages.

To enroll in STEP, visit <https://step.state.gov/step/>

When you first enroll, you will need to create your own user account. Once you have created an account, you can access your travel data at any time. Please remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.



VOTE FROM ABROAD: ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION



1. Confirm Registration/Request Your Ballot:

Visit the [FVAP website](#) and request an absentee ballot for the state in which you are registered to vote, by filling out and submitting the [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#).

2. Receive and Complete Your Ballot:

Please allow 2-3 weeks for absentee ballot delivery. If you request an absentee ballot and do not receive it, you can still vote absentee by completing a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). FWABs are available on-line at <https://www.fvap.gov/fwab-privacy-notice> or from the American Citizen Services (ACS) Unit at the Embassy. If you need additional assistance, call (509) 2229 8000 or emailVotePortAuPrince@state.gov.

3. Return Your Completed, Signed Ballot:

After you complete your ballot, seal and address it. Your ballot should be addressed to the state elections office, which is indicated on the instructions page attached to your ballot.

There are three options for mailing absentee ballots:

- a) Drop your ballot in the Embassy's Official Ballot Drop Box. The box is located at the Consular entrance by the green and white striped tent during normal business hours, Monday-Friday from 7 am – 3:30 p.m. Upon entering the Consular Entrance, you will be directed to the voting station.
- b) Mail the ballot via international mail or courier service.
- c) Hand carry by a trusted friend, colleague, or family member and mail in the United States.

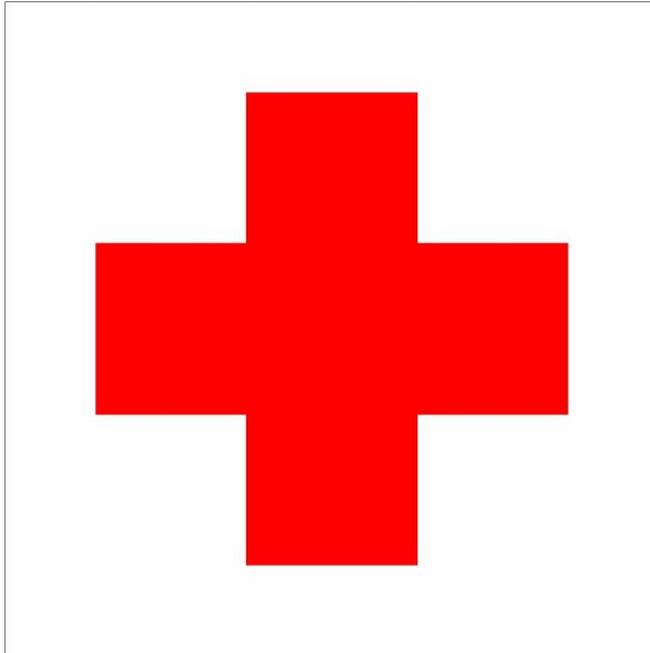
There is no postage necessary if you drop your ballot at the Embassy. Standard postage/courier service fees apply if you choose to use U.S. or international mail.

If you have any questions about registering to vote overseas, please contact U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince's Voting Assistance Officer at +509-2229-8900, or VotePortAuPrince@state.gov.



REMINDER OF GOOD SECURITY PRACTICES

- Try to keep a low profile, especially in high crime areas.
- Always inform someone, such as a family member, coworker, or friend of where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- If possible, do not drive alone, or on rural and unpopulated roads after sunset, or in high crime areas.
- Avoid being predictable while abroad and stay in locations with adequate security measures.
- Visit [OSAC](#) to learn about region-specific kidnapping threats.



TIPS FROM THE EMBASSY MEDICAL UNIT

- Make sure you are current on your vaccines, including tetanus and rabies. It is important to update your rabies vaccine when traveling to the U.S. since the rabies immunoglobulin is virtually non-existent in Haiti.
- Always keep basic medications (pain relievers, anti-itch creams, etc.) and supplies on hand. Invest in a quality first aid kit and keep one in your car and at home.
- Have a doctor for well-patient visits.
- Know where doctors and the closest emergency room are located in your area. See the Embassy website for some options. Remember many hospitals don't provide sheets, towels, and pillows, so make sure you have these items on hand if you need to go to the hospital.
- Keep a Go-Bag packed and ready in the event you need to shelter in place, or evacuate, on short notice. For suggestions, visit <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>.
- Always have medical insurance, including medevac insurance. Some options include Allianz, Clements, AIG, CHA, and REVA.
- Be cognizant of your mental health and your well-being. Find healthy outlets to relieve stress and remember that self-care is important to your overall health.

COVID-19 TIPS

- If you would like to be tested for COVID, the Haitian Ministry of Health does COVID tests. Please call 4343-3333 to schedule a time.
- Gheskio is an independent lab Americans in Haiti can go to get tested as well, for more information call 4912-5287 or 3406-7109

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

3/10/20 2020/1/18

Let's Stay in Touch

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

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince's website: <https://ht.usembassy.gov/>

American Citizen Services (ACS) website: <https://ht.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USEmbassyHaiti/>

ACS on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ACSPortauPrince/>

Haiti Travel Advisory: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-advisory.html>



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