

September 2021



# Consular Newsletter

Hello, everyone. I'm Umar Moulta-Ali, the new Fraud Prevention Manager at the U.S. Embassy in Port au Prince. I just arrived in Haiti last month and am happy to be serving here. I previously served in Consular sections in Trinidad and Tobago and China.



*Pictured: Umar Moulta-Ali  
Fraud Prevention Manager*

September is National Preparedness Month, [designated by President Joseph R. Biden](#) to

raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at anytime. This year's theme is "Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love." In his statement, President Biden said, "I call on everyone to get vaccinated, turn on emergency alerts on your smartphone, pack an emergency go-bag, and encourage others in your community to do the same." This advice is especially applicable in Haiti, as just in the past year, Haitians have experienced a major earthquake, one of the most active hurricane seasons on record, and COVID-19, among other emergent crises. Our newsletter includes information on hurricane preparedness and creating a go-bag, but preparation can also include financial readiness, plans for pets and animals, and building your own safety skills. You can visit the [Federal Emergency Management Agency's Ready campaign](#) for free information and resources on

these topics to help you and your family "Prepare to Protect."

Many of you have been following the U.S. Government's response to the August 14 earthquake. The U.S. Department of Defense's Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) [completed its earthquake relief operations](#) earlier this month. Meanwhile, USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) is [continuing to coordinate with the](#)

[Haitian government to get Haitians the assistance they need.](#)

The State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)) helps the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, in addition to providing alerts about local safety conditions. I encourage all U.S. citizens traveling and living in Haiti to enroll in this free service, especially since Haiti continues to have the highest (Level 4) [Travel Advisory](#), "do not travel" due to kidnapping, crime, civil unrest, and COVID-19. If you must travel, the CDC recommends you are fully vaccinated. This month's "Ask the Consul" section focuses on new [COVID-19 vaccine requirements for immigrant visa applicants starting October 1](#). You can find a list of COVID-19 vaccine distribution sites, across all 10 departments in Haiti, on the [Embassy website](#).

Stay informed, stay connected, and stay safe!

# Ask the Consul: New COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements

Each month we'll be answering some of your frequently asked questions. For September, we're focusing on the new COVID-19 vaccine requirements for immigrant visa applicants and general information about COVID-19 vaccination options in Haiti.

**Q: What are the new vaccine requirements for immigrant visa applicants and when do they start?**

**A:** Effective October 1, a completed COVID-19 vaccine series is required as part of the U.S. immigrant visa medical examination. Full information about this new requirement can be found on the CDC website at:

[cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/panel-physicians/covid-19-technical-instructions.html](https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/panel-physicians/covid-19-technical-instructions.html).



**Q: When should immigrant visa applicants get vaccinated against COVID-19?**

**A:** Now! Although the requirements for immigrant visa applicants to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 do not begin until October 1, most vaccines require two shots spaced several weeks apart for one to be considered fully vaccinated. Immigrant visa applicants should not wait until their medical exam date or interview date to schedule their first or second vaccine dose, in that the entire vaccine series (1 or 2 doses depending on formulation) must be completed in addition to the other routinely required vaccines. An example timeline for the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccines and other required vaccinations is illustrated below. The Moderna vaccine is currently available in Haiti.

<b>Day 0</b>	<b>Day 21</b>	<b>Day 21</b>
First dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine	Second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine	Other routine vaccinations
<b>Day 0</b>	<b>Day 28</b>	<b>Day 28</b>
First dose of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine	Second dose of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine	Other routine vaccinations
<b>Day 0</b>	<b>Day 0</b>	
First dose of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine	Other routine vaccinations	

**Q: Where and when can I get vaccinated in Haiti?**

**A:** COVID-19 vaccines are currently available in all 10 of Haiti's Departments. The Haitian Health Ministry regularly reports the updated list of vaccination sites and operating hours, which is also available via the [Embassy's website](#).

# National Preparedness Month



Mwa Preparasyon  
Nasyonal 2021  
Prepare pou Pwoteje



National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. The 2021 theme is **“Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love.”**

You can visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website, [Ready.Gov/September](https://www.ready.gov/September), for free resources, like videos, a Preparedness Portal, and local emergency management information to help you prepare and protect.

There are four key aspects of preparedness for individuals, families, and communities:

- 1. Make a Plan:** Talk to your friends and family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster.
- 2. Build a Kit:** Gather supplies that will last for several days after a disaster for everyone living in your home.
- 3. Low Cost, No-Cost Preparedness:** Natural disasters don’t wait for a convenient time. Start preparing for them today by taking low cost and no cost preparedness actions, like signing up for alerts and safe-guarding important documents.
- 4. Teach Youth About Preparedness:** Talk to your kids about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case you are separated.

The following is an excerpt from the White House’s Proclamation on National Preparedness Month, 2021:

*“Becoming more disaster-resilient as a country—and more prepared as a people—is essential for our continued strength and security. During National Preparedness Month, we encourage all Americans to take the important steps to prepare for natural and human-made threats and to ensure that all our communities are ready for any emergency. As we prepare for natural disasters and address the accelerating climate crisis, we must also remain vigilant to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats, including the COVID-19 pandemic and threats that will arise in the future. Even as more than 174 million Americans have been fully vaccinated—with hundreds of thousands continuing to get vaccinated each day—the more transmissible Delta variant is spreading, particularly among unvaccinated individuals. I continue to call on Americans to protect themselves and those around them by getting vaccinated. The vaccines are safe. They are effective. And together, we can save lives.”*

~President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

# 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 50 locations, in various cities. The U.S. Government does not plan to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to private U.S. citizens overseas. Please continue to follow host country developments and guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination.

## Additional health guidance:

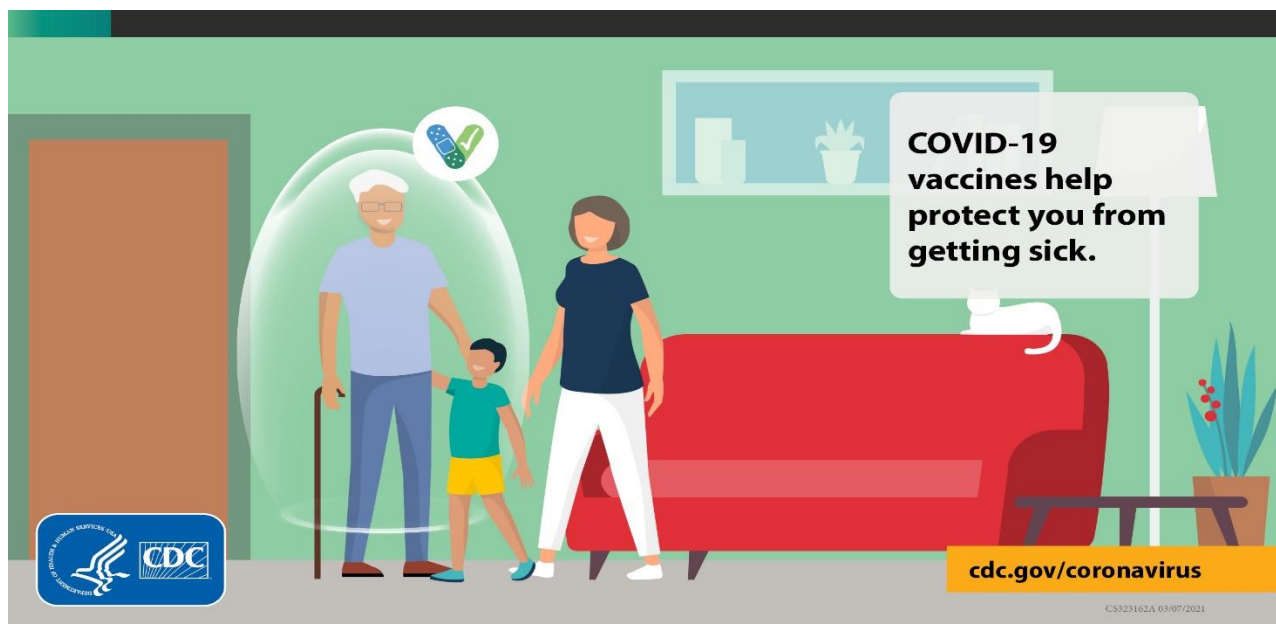
- 👉 Make sure you are current on your vaccines, including tetanus and rabies.
- 👉 Know where doctors and the closest emergency room are in your area. Please visit the [Embassy website](#) for a list of hospitals and medical professionals in Haiti.
- 👉 Always keep basic medications and supplies on hand. 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](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)



# Travel & Security

## 4

### 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](https://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](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 e-mail addresses 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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