

EMBASSY UPDATES

NEWSLETTER FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN VIETNAM

U.S. EMBASSY HANOI • U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL HO CHI MINH CITY

OCTOBER 2020

Routine U.S. Citizen Services

Please use our online scheduling system (<http://bit.ly/acs-slot>) to request passport and notarial appointments for the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and Consulate HCMC. The U.S. government has gradually resumed production of regular full-validity passports and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBAs). Wait times may be longer than usual due to limited capacity.

***Failure to obtain an appointment or arrive on time for any service may result in being denied entry.**

Recommended Mailing Deadlines for the U.S. 2020 General Election



October 5
on a ship at sea



October 13
outside the U.S.



October 27
stateside

FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Holidays & Upcoming Events

September 28: Voting Registration Event and Facebook Live Stream
at the [American Center HCMC](#) with
Consul General Marie Damour
17:30

October 07: HCMC Ballot Collection Event
Saigon Outcast - 19:00

October 12: Columbus Day



Important Announcements

ACS Outreach Events:

American Citizen Services (ACS) in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City will be canceling all consular outreach trips for the foreseeable future due to resource constraints.

Voting:

ACS sections in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City are able to accept your Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) or ballot in person at the American Citizen Services Unit on Monday -Friday from 8:30 -11:30 and 13:30 -16:00.

Sexual Assault Awareness:

[Important Information for U.S. Citizens](#)

Vietnamese Visa Extension:

For the latest guidelines visit the Vietnamese immigration website: <https://xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn>



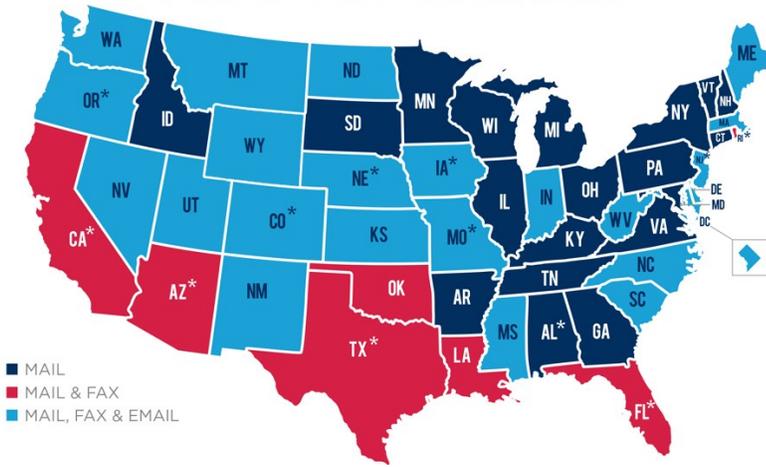
American Citizen Services

Contact us if you have any questions at:

Embassy Hanoi 24/7: (024) 3850-5000 • U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City 24/7: (028) 3520-4200

ACS Inquiry Form: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/acs-inquiry-form/>

FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT



Absentee Voting State-by-State

Due to Covid-19 many states are allowing absentee ballots by fax or email. For more information go to <https://www.fvap.gov/covid-19>. For information on how to submit your voting materials from Vietnam go to <https://vn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/voting/> or email votevietnam@state.gov.



STEP Enrollment

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. STEP provides important updates from the Embassy regarding conditions in your destination country and can help the Embassy contact you in an emergency.

<https://step.state.gov>



Useful Information for LPRs During COVID-19

If you are a U.S. lawful permanent resident (LPR) stranded outside of the United States due to COVID-19, you may find the information below useful. U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) retains jurisdiction over the status of LPRs and any request for official guidance should be directed to them.

[Click here for more info.](#)

Follow us Online

U.S. Embassy Hanoi



U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City



#stormseason

Monitor local weather reports to be aware of incoming storms.



Visit the [website](#) of the U.S. Embassy in Vietnam for the latest weather and travel alerts.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.

Air Quality in Vietnam

The U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate have air quality monitors to measure PM 2.5 particulates as an indication of the air quality. You can check the current reading for Hanoi [here](#) and HCMC [here](#). The air monitors convert PM 2.5 readings into an air quality index (AQI). For more information on AQI and how it is calculated please visit: <https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>.

Vietnam issues e-Visa for Americans

The Vietnamese government rolled out an electronic visa (e-Visa) program for citizens from 80 different countries, including U.S. citizens, earlier this year. Visitors with e-visas can enter Vietnam at eight international airports, 16 international land border gates, or 13 seaports across the country.

Although Vietnam has suspended the issuance of visas due to the global pandemic, Americans can take advantage of this new program once Vietnam resumes issuing visas to foreigners.

Our Commitment to Fighting Fraud

All appointments are free for U.S. Citizens, including passports, notary services, and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad. [This website](#) has detailed instructions about service costs and required documents for each service.

If you wish to report fraudulent activity related to any of the Consular services we provide, please contact our Consular Fraud Prevention Unit at HMCDFPU@state.gov for Ho Chi Minh City or HanoiFPU@state.gov for Hanoi.

U.S. Citizens with Emergencies, please call:

- Embassy Hanoi 24/7: (024) 3850-5000 within Vietnam or +8424-3850-5000 internationally.
- U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City 24/7: (028) 3520-4200 within Vietnam; or +8428-3520-4200 internationally.

For information about general, non-emergency services provided by U.S. Citizen Services, including urgent appointment requests, please contact us via our [ACS inquiry form](#).

Vietnam Travel Advisory: Level 3

The Department of State downgraded its [travel advisory](#) for U.S. Citizens interested in traveling to Vietnam. The current Level 3 advisory recommends all U.S. Citizens Reconsider Travel to Vietnam due to Covid-19. Please visit the U.S. Embassy and Consulate's website (below) to see information on entry restrictions, quarantine policies, and urgent health information for Vietnam. <https://vn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/>

Update on U.S. Passport Operations

To see the current update on passport operations in response to Covid-19 visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/passport-covid-19.html>