

# AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES U.S. EMBASSY NEW DELHI NEWSLETTER

Fall 2009

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**American Citizen Services (ACS)**  
Andre Malraux Marg, Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi 110021  
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Tel: 2419-0110/0111  
Emergencies after hours and on  
weekends: 2419-8000  
Fax: 2419-8407  
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## Useful Links

[U.S. Embassy Website](#)

[Registration and Travel  
Information](#)

[Applying for a Passport or  
Adding Extra Pages](#)

[Consular Reports of Birth Abroad](#)

[Obtaining an Immigrant Visa for  
a Relative or Spouse](#)

[Non-Immigrant Visas](#)

[Green Cards, Employment  
Authorization, and Immigration  
Services and Benefits:](#)

[Medical and Legal Assistance](#)

[Emergency Services for U.S.  
Citizens](#)

[Selective Service System](#)

[Social Security Administration](#)

[Internal Revenue Service](#)

## Welcome

### U.S. Ambassador to India Timothy J. Roemer

Timothy J. Roemer was sworn-in on July 23, 2009 as the 21<sup>st</sup> U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of India by U.S. President Barack Obama. To read more about Ambassador Roemer, visit <https://newdelhi.usembassy.gov>.

### New Minister Counselor and New Consular Section Chief

Jim Herman is the new Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs for India. He most recently served as Deputy Director in the Office of Consular Systems and Technology at the Department in Washington D.C.

Don Jacobson is the new Consular Section Chief at the U.S. Embassy New Delhi. He has previously served in Riyadh, Washington D.C., Guadalajara, Bogota, Seoul and Ciudad Juarez.

### Applying for a Passport?

#### Don't Forget Your Social Security Number!

Section 6039E of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. S 6039E) requires passport applicants to provide their Social Security number - if they have one - when they apply for a U.S. passport or renewal of a U.S. passport. Failure to provide the information could result in a \$500 penalty, enforceable by the IRS.

U.S. Embassies and Consulates overseas have begun enforcing the IRS requirement to provide a Social Security Number on passport applications and renewals. Failing to provide this information could lead to delays in obtaining or renewing your passport.

**If you do not have a Social Security number, or have forgotten your number, we can help you to apply for a replacement card.**

**For more information about what is required to get a Social Security number or replacement card, visit the Social Security Administration website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), or email them directly at [fbu.manilla@ssa.gov](mailto:fbu.manilla@ssa.gov). Or, you can contact the U.S Embassy in New Delhi at 2419-8000, extension 4110 for additional assistance.**

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF CRIME ABROAD

Consular officers are committed to assisting American citizens who become victims of crime while abroad. Crime victims may suffer financial loss and serious physical or emotional injury. The emotional impact of the crime may be intensified because you are in unfamiliar surroundings. You may not be near sources of comfort and support, fluent in the local language or knowledgeable about local laws and customs.

Consular officers and local employees at overseas embassies are familiar with local government agencies and resources in the country where they work and can help you to:

- replace a stolen passport;
- contact family, friends, or employers;
- obtain appropriate medical care;
- address other emergency needs that arise as a result of the crime;
- provide information about the local criminal justice process and about the case itself;
- obtain information about local resources to assist victims, including foreign crime victim compensation programs;
- obtain information about U.S. crime victim assistance and compensation programs, and
- obtain a list of local attorneys who speak English.

Consular officers cannot, however, investigate crimes, provide legal advice or represent you in court, serve as official interpreters or translators, or pay legal, medical, or other fees for you.

**If you are the victim of a crime abroad contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate for assistance.** Consular duty personnel are available for emergency assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at all embassies and consulates overseas. In India, contact a consular officer at one of the numbers provided below. Also contact the local police to report the incident and obtain immediate help with safety concerns. Request a copy of the police report.

**U.S. Embassy in New Delhi - 2419-8000**

**U.S. Consulate in Kolkata - 3984-2400**

**U.S. Consulate in Mumbai – 2363-3611**

**U.S. Consulate in Hyderabad – 4033-8300**

**U.S. Consulate in Chennai – 2857-4000**

## IF YOU ARE ARRESTED ABROAD

When you are in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws, and American officials are limited as to how they can assist you. They cannot, for instance, represent you in legal proceedings or pay your legal fees or other expenses. They can, however, perform a variety of vital services, which include providing a list of attorneys, assisting in contacting your family in the U.S. if you wish, helping you obtain money from family in the U.S. and monitoring your health and welfare and the conditions under which you are being held.

Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Indian laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Furthermore, since the police may arrest anyone who is accused of committing a crime (even if the allegation is frivolous in nature), the Indian criminal justice system is often used to escalate personal disagreements into criminal charges. This practice has been increasingly exploited by dissatisfied business partners, contractors, estranged spouses, or other persons with whom the U.S. citizen has a disagreement, occasionally resulting in the jailing of U.S. citizens pending resolution of their disputes. Such circumstances can delay the U.S. citizen's timely departure from India and can result in an unintended long-term stay in the country.

**If you are arrested, immediately ask to speak to a consular officer at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Under International agreements, the U.S. Government has a right to provide consular assistance to you upon your request. If your request to speak to your consul is turned down, keep asking – politely, but persistently.**

**For more information on how consuls assist Americans arrested overseas see:**

**[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies\\_1199.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1199.html)**

# 2009-H1N1 Influenza Fact Sheet

*By Altaf Lal, Health Attaché, U.S. Embassy New Delhi*

**Background:** India is the most recent of more than 168 countries, including the United States, to report confirmed cases of pandemic H1N1 flu. All continents are affected by the pandemic. 2009-H1N1 influenza (sometimes referred to as novel H1N1 or “swine flu”) is a new virus causing illness in humans. It was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009, and the symptoms resemble those of seasonal flu. The virus is spreading from person-to-person, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza spreads. You cannot catch 2009-H1N1 by eating properly cooked pork products.

**The WHO** has declared a “phase six” pandemic in response to the rapid spread of the 2009-H1N1 virus, indicating community level outbreaks in two or more different regions of the world. However, most individuals infected with 2009-H1N1 influenza fully recover, and the WHO considers the overall severity of the pandemic to be only moderate.

**H1N1 in India:** The central Government of India has moved quickly and efficiently to minimize the spread of H1N1 and to provide current information on how to recognize and treat the condition. As of August 13, 2009, 1,193 cases of H1N1 have been confirmed in India, with 18 reported deaths. Americans residing and travelling in India should follow local press reports regarding public locations that have been closed to minimize the spread of H1N1. This is particularly important in India because individual State governments have the authority to implement unilateral actions related to health issues without prior central government approval.

The Indian government advises anyone who exhibits flu-like symptoms at any time to contact the influenza hotline, 011-2392-1401 or to go to a designated medical facility to be tested and/or treated. The Indian Ministry of Health has announced new testing policies which allow for home quarantine while awaiting test results; however, the decision about treatment/quarantine options will be made by medical authorities. Quarantine in a government facility may be required during testing and/or treatment.

**Airport Screening and Quarantine:** Everyone entering India is screened for H1N1 by completing a health questionnaire at the airport on arrival. If you are exhibiting any flu-like symptoms you may be required to be tested for the virus and may be subject to quarantine in a government facility during testing and treatment. If you are found to have H1N1 influenza, you may be in quarantine until you have completed a full five-day course of antiviral medication, you are without a fever for 48 hours, and/or Indian Health Officials feel the likelihood of virus transmission is low.

Please note that the quality of medical care in India varies considerably and that the Embassy and Consulates cannot demand release, or a particular course of treatment, for American citizens if they have been detained or quarantined in accordance with local public health and legal authorities. The U.S. Mission encourages all U.S. Citizens in India to fully cooperate with the Indian Government's efforts to control the pandemic.

Tamiflu is only available in India through designated government facilities. At this time, there is no immunization against this form of influenza.

**Prevention and Response –Taking Charge:** According to HHS/CDC, the spread of viral infection can be mitigated by washing your hands frequently with soap and water (or an alcohol-based hand cleaner), covering your cough with a tissue, refraining from touching your eyes, nose or mouth, and avoiding close contact with sick individuals.

To reduce the spread of illness, HHS/CDC recommends that individuals avoid travel if they have flu-like symptoms or are sick with a disease easily spread from person-to-person. Individuals that have symptoms consistent with influenza should follow the guidance of local health authorities for the isolation of sick persons and should not take public transportation for the duration of the infectious period unless medically cleared to do so.

Americans who choose or are forced to remain in a country experiencing a pandemic should also limit exposure to the virus through such measures as avoiding mass transit and public gatherings, and should take the hygienic precautions outlined above. For more detailed information on steps you can take to stay healthy, please visit the [HHS/CDC website](#) and the U.S. Government's [federal influenza website](#).

Complete planning guidance on how private citizens can prepare to remain in country during a pandemic, including advice on stocking food, water and medical supplies, is available at the [federal influenza website](#).

**Additional Resources:** Any questions or concerns about influenza or other illnesses should be directed to a medical professional. Although the Embassy and Consulates cannot provide medical advice or provide medical services to the public, a list of hospitals and doctors can be found on our websites, which are provided below. Americans should review the guidance provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization, and make their own decisions about whether to travel.

For more information on U.S. Government policy during a pandemic, and for travel safety information, please see the State Department's "Pandemic/Avian Influenza" and "Remain in Country" fact sheets on [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) . Further information about 2009-H1N1 Influenza, including steps you can take to stay healthy, can be found at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>, the U.S. Government pandemic influenza website at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>, and the World Health Organization website at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>.

## U.S. EMBASSY HOLIDAYS 2009-10

The U.S Embassy, including the American Citizen Services Unit, will be closed for routine services on the following days. In the event of an emergency a duty officer can be contacted by calling the Embassy switchboard at 2419-8000.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
September 7, 2009	Monday	Labor Day	American
September 21	Monday	Id-UI-Fitr	Indian
September 28	Monday	Dussehra	Indian
October 2	Friday	Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday	Indian
October 12	Monday	Columbus Day	American
November 2	Monday	Guru Nanak's Birthday	Indian
November 11	Wednesday	Veterans' Day	American
November 26	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day	American
December 25	Friday	Christmas Day	American

## 2010 Holidays

January 1	Friday	New Year's Day	American
January 5	Tuesday	Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday	Indian
January 18	Monday	Martin Luther King's Birthday	American
January 26	Tuesday	Republic Day	Indian
February 12	Friday	Mahashivratri	Indian
February 15	Monday	Washington's Birthday	American
March 1	Monday	Holi	Indian
April 2	Friday	Good Friday	Indian
May 31	Monday	Memorial Day	American
July 5*	Monday	Independence Day	American
August 24	Tuesday	Raksha Bandhan	Indian
September 2	Thursday	Janmashtami	Indian
September 6	Monday	Labor Day	American
October 11	Monday	Columbus Day	American
November 5	Friday	Diwali	Indian
November 11	Thursday	Veterans' Day	American
November 17	Wednesday	Idu'l Zuha (Bakrid)	Indian
November 25	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day	American
December 17	Friday	Muharram	Indian
December 24**	Friday	Christmas Day	American

\* in lieu of July 4, Sunday    \*\* in lieu of December 25, Saturday