



## MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

**U.S. Embassy, Manila, The Philippines**

**May 22, 2014**

*THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD.*

### **World Health Organization Warns Travelers of Polio Outbreak**

The U.S. Embassy would like to inform U.S. citizens that the World Health Organization (WHO) has recently issued a Public Health Emergency of International Concern regarding a resurgence of the polio virus and its spread to new countries.

The WHO recommends that all travelers to or from the countries currently infected and exporting wild poliovirus -- **Pakistan, Cameroon, and the Syrian Arab Republic** -- should receive polio vaccinations within twelve months of international travel. U.S. citizens should be aware that they may be subject to additional polio vaccination requirements to enter or exit these countries.

In addition, the WHO declared seven countries -- **Afghanistan, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Nigeria, and Somalia** -- infected with wild poliovirus but not currently exporting it. These countries pose an ongoing risk for wild poliovirus exportations in 2014. U.S. citizens visiting or residing in these countries may wish to take additional precautions, including determining if they should receive polio vaccinations prior to international travel.

The Department has posted a [Polio Fact sheet](#) on our main web site which contains more complete information.

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The Embassy is located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines and is open 0730-1600, Monday through Friday. The Embassy's main telephone number is (+632) 301-2000. U.S. citizens can dial this number and ask to be connected to the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit or with the Embassy Duty Officer (for calls outside of normal business hours). You can also contact the ACS unit through email at [ACSInfoManila@state.gov](mailto:ACSInfoManila@state.gov) or through the [Embassy Facebook page](#). Please visit [our website](#) for information on all services offered by the ACS unit.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in the Philippines enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at [www.Travel.State.Gov](http://www.Travel.State.Gov). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State [Department's website](#), where you can find current [Travel Warnings](#), including the [Travel Warning for the Philippines](#), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for the Philippines](#). For additional information, refer to "[A Safe Trip Abroad](#)" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.