



# Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 63

April 2013

## Avian Flu (H7N9) in China

### Leaving China?

Did you know that you can end your enrollment with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) by visiting the [step.state.gov](http://step.state.gov) site? If you previously submitted a paper enrollment form to the U.S. consulate, you may end your enrollment by sending an email request to: [ShanghaiACS@state.gov](mailto:ShanghaiACS@state.gov).

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**Updated:** April 15, 2013  
**From:** [cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm](http://cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm)

### What is the current situation?

On April 1, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that influenza A (H7N9), a type of flu usually seen in birds, has been identified in a number of people in China. Cases have been confirmed in the following provinces and municipalities: Anhui, Beijing, Henan, Jiangsu, Shanghai, and Zhejiang.

This is the first time this virus has been seen in people. Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Infection with the new virus has resulted in severe respiratory illness and, in some cases, death. Chinese health authorities are conducting investigations to learn the source of the infections with this virus and to find other cases.

CDC is following this situation closely and coordinating with domestic and international partners in a number of areas. More information will be posted as it becomes

available.

There is no recommendation against travel to China at this time.

### What can travelers and Americans living in China do to protect themselves?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent H7N9. At this time, we do not know the source of this virus. CDC is repeating its standard advice to travelers and Americans living in China to follow good hand hygiene and food safety practices and to avoid contact with animals.

- ⇒ **Do not touch birds, pigs, or other animals.**
  - Do not touch animals whether they are alive or dead.
  - Avoid live bird or poultry markets.
  - Avoid other markets or farms with animals (wet markets).

⇒ **Eat food that is fully cooked.**

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## Air Quality Monitor at U.S. Consulate Shanghai

The U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai has a PM2.5 air quality monitor to measure fine particles in the air. Data from this monitor are used to calculate the Air Quality Index (AQI) which provides a health resource for the American community. If you would like to view our data, please look for us on Twitter (@cgshanghaiair) or view our website at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/airmonitor.html>.



## Travel Warnings and Alerts

*Security reminder: It is advisable that you and your family review your personal security profile and be aware of your surroundings at all times.*

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new **Travel Warnings** for the following countries:

<a href="#">Burundi</a>	04/22/2013
<a href="#">Sudan</a>	04/16/2013
<a href="#">Colombia</a>	04/11/2013
<a href="#">Pakistan</a>	04/09/2013
<a href="#">Lebanon</a>	04/01/2013
<a href="#">Republic of South Sudan</a>	03/29/2013
<a href="#">Mali</a>	03/22/2013

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country danger-

ous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. This information is available at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html).

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new **Travel Alerts**:

<a href="#">Egypt</a>	03/29/2013
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Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist at-

tacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert.

This information is available at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_1766.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html).

The most up-to-date information regarding permitted and **prohibited items** on flights can be viewed online at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).

For additional information, please visit "**Americans Traveling Abroad**" on the website of the U.S. Department of State [http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans\\_1252.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html).

## Upcoming Holidays & Other Closures

A full list of all of our closures is online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html>. The ACS Unit will be **CLOSED** to the public on:

<b><u>May 1, 2013, Wednesday</u></b>	<b>International Labor Day</b>	国际劳动节	Guójì Láodòng Jié
<b><u>May 17, 2013, Friday</u></b>	<b>Administrative Closure</b>	行政管理日	Xíngzhèng Guǎnlǐ Rì
<b><u>May 27, 2013, Monday</u></b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>	阵亡烈士纪念日	Zhènwáng Lièshì Jìniàn Rì
<b><u>June 12, 2013, Wednesday</u></b>	<b>Dragon Boat Festival</b>	端午节	Duānwǔ Jié

## American Citizen Services (ACS) Contact Information

U.S. Consulate General, Shanghai, China, 1038 West Nanjing Road, 8/F  
Westgate Mall 梅龙镇广场 (Méi Lóng Zhèn Guǎng Chǎng)

Routine Services: 8:00am - 11:30am

Passport Pickups: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Mon - Fri \*Closed on Wednesday afternoons, weekends, and holidays.

After Hours Emergencies: (86-21) 3217-4650

Homepage: [shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html](http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html)

## VOTING: Public Comment Period for New Overseas Voting Forms, Comment Period Closes 05/31/2013

As some of you may have heard, there was controversy with the wording of block one of the revised 08/2011 versions of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB). Both forms must now receive OPM approval and the public comment period is now open. Department of State Voting Assistance Officers and Private U.S. citizens have until May 31, 2013 to submit

their comments via the links below.

To view Federal Register Notices:

FPCA: <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-07485>

FWAB: <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-07486>

To view Draft Forms and submit comments:

FPCA:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=DOD-2013-OS-0061>

FWAB:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=DOD-2013-OS-0065>

## Avian Flu (H7N9) in China

(From Page 1)

- Eat meat and poultry that is fully cooked (not pink) and served hot.
  - Eat hard-cooked eggs (not runny).
  - **Don't** eat or drink dishes that include blood from any animal.
  - **Don't** eat food from street vendors.
- ⇒ **Practice hygiene and cleanliness:**
- Wash your hands often.
  - If soap and water aren't available, clean your hands with hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
  - Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. If you need to touch your face, make sure your hands are clean.
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
  - Try to avoid close contact, such as kissing, hugging or sharing eating utensils or cups, with people who are sick.

⇒ **See a doctor if you become sick during or after travel to China.**

- See a doctor right away if you become sick with fever, coughing, or shortness of breath.
- If you get sick while you are still in China, visit the [US Department of State website](#) to find a list of local doctors and hospitals. Many foreign hospitals and clinics are accredited by the Joint Commission International. A list of accredited facilities is available at their website ([www.jointcommissioninternational.org](http://www.jointcommissioninternational.org)).
- Delay your travel home until after you have recovered or your doctor says it is ok to travel.
- If you get sick with fever, coughing, or shortness of breath after you return to the United States, be sure to tell your doctor about your recent travel to China.

### *Clinician information:*

Clinicians should consider the possibility of novel influenza A (H7N9)

virus infection in persons presenting with respiratory illness within 10 days of an appropriate travel or exposure history. Although the majority of novel influenza A (H7N9) cases have resulted in severe respiratory illness in adults, infection with this virus may cause mild illness in some and may cause illness in children as well. Influenza diagnostic testing in patients with respiratory illness for whom an etiology has not been confirmed may identify human cases of avian influenza A virus infection or new cases of variant influenza in the United States. Patients with novel influenza A (H7N9) virus infections should have a positive test result for influenza A virus via reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing but be unsubtypeable. Clinicians suspecting novel influenza A (H7N9) should obtain appropriate specimens and notify their local or state health department promptly. State health departments should notify CDC of suspected cases within 24 hours. For more information, see the [Health Alert Notice](#) issued April 5, 2013.