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# PIPS - Partners Office for International Professionals and Students

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## Memorandum

To: Hospital Staff  
From: Claire Ayer, Director  
Date: 02/10/2017

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): International Travel Tips for Visa Holders

The “Protecting the Nation from Terrorist Attacks by Foreign Nationals” Executive Order that went into effect on January 27 has created significant worry and stress among visa holders and U.S. permanent residents. Please continue to check the [PIPS website](#) for the most up-to-date facts.

In light of the Executive Order, PIPS has seen a significant increase in our web traffic and received both a high number of calls and e-mails regarding information international travel. We have prepared this FAQ to address the most common concerns PIPS encountered over the last two weeks.

- 1. I am not from one of the seven (7) counties. I have an unexpired visa stamp, what documents should I bring with me when I leave the U.S.?**

It is critical to have correct documents ready to present upon entry to the U.S.

- J-1 and J-2 visa holders should review the list of required documents posted [here](#)
- H-1B and H-4 visa holders, should review the list of required documents posted [here](#)
- F-1 visa holders and ECFMG J-1s and J-2s should check with their visa sponsor for additional travel tips
- E-3s and H-1B1s with valid visa stamps can travel with an employment verification letter and recent pay statements

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- TNs can travel with recent pay statements and an employment verification letter.

**2. I need a new visa stamp and I am not associated with any of the seven (7) countries. Are there any new issues I should worry about?**

Please review the appropriate travel tips for your visa category. If your visa stamp is expired, you will need to make plans to get a new visa stamp before returning to the US (exception for automatic revalidation).

- Visit the [website of the American Embassy/Consulate](#) to which you will apply for specific visa application instructions.
- Review the visa processing times [here](#) but expect additional delays and unusually lengthy processing times.
- “Drop-Box” visa applications are still being honored, but you **should not rely** on this option and should make an appointment with a U.S. Embassy or Consulate, as the Drop-Box program can be suspended without notice.
- Individuals who are employed, or who hold academic degrees, in a field that appears on the government’s [Technology Alert List](#), should delay their visa appointments in order to avoid potentially lengthy administrative processing or related screening delays.
- Unexpected delays are always a possibility when traveling.

**3. I have an expired visa stamp, do I need to leave the U.S. and get a new one?**

No, the visa stamp is for travel only. Ensure your underlying documents, DS-2019, I-94, or I-797 approval notice are valid. Please also review [here](#).

**4. Can I get a new visa stamp in the U.S.?**

No, the process to obtain a visa stamp within the U.S. was abolished in 2001. A visa stamp can only be obtained outside of the U.S.

**5. I am a permanent resident does the Travel Ban affect me?**

U.S. permanent residents (“green card” holders) from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen are not subject to the order. However, permanent residents from these countries

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should anticipate heightened scrutiny when seeking admission to the U.S., as should any traveler who has visited those countries.

If you are not from an affected country, plan for delays when entering the U.S. and plan any subsequent flights accordingly. If you have a connecting flight after your initial entry into the U.S., allow additional time between those flights to get through the Customs and Border control screening process.

Staff planning to travel outside the U.S. for hospital business should enroll in Partners [TravelSafe](#), a travel information and emergency assistance program for employees. *TravelSafe's* global hotline is +1 443-965-9242. Questions can be directed to [travelsafe@partners.org](mailto:travelsafe@partners.org).

**6. I am a green card holder and I am interested in becoming a U.S. citizen - is this a matter PIPS assist me with?**

Due to the personal nature of citizenship, PIPS is unable to assist. However, PIPS has a list of attorneys who handle that matter along with green card renewals. If interested, we can provide that list to you.

Additional Resources for Employees only include:

- [U.S. Citizenship Classes offered by Partners HealthCare](#)
  - Please review the link for requirements and contact details.
  - This program is open to family members of employees as well.
- [Partners HealthCare Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)– Immigration Resources](#)
  - EAP's list includes local and national organizations that assist with U.S. Citizenship.
  - The availability of assistance will depend on the selected non-profit organization's policies.

**7. Can I still travel in the U.S.?**

There are no rules prohibiting travel within the U.S., but you are required to carry proof of your lawful status in the U.S. at all times.