
PIPS - Partners Office for International Professionals and Students

Memorandum

To: Hospital Staff
From: Claire Ayer, Director
Date: 02/06/2017

UPDATE

International Travel Tips for Visa Holders

A Federal District Court in Washington State on Friday, February 3, 2017 issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) prohibiting federal government agencies from enforcing the Executive Order of January 27, 2017.

This order took effect immediately and is effective nationwide. Note that the circumstances of this situation are fluid and will likely change at short notice given litigation underway at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Individuals with valid visas who are affected by the Executive Order should consider traveling to the U.S. immediately. Note the following:

- The Department of State announced that it has reversed its previous revocation of visas held by foreign nationals from the seven countries listed in the Executive Order. Visas may be used provided they are valid and have not been stamped or marked as cancelled.
- Airlines have been instructed to board foreign nationals with valid visas.

Please continue reading the information provided in the February 3, 2017 update from PIPS:

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. This order has led to the circulation of multiple, sometimes contradictory, rumors of further changes to U.S. immigration policy. Please continue to check the [PIPS website](#) for the most up-to-date **facts**.

Visa holders who ARE passport holders, citizens, nationals, dual nationals or individuals born in Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen should avoid traveling outside the U.S.

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

If you are **NOT a passport holder, citizen, national, dual national or individual born in Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen** and your visa stamp is current (or you are Canadian and do not require a visa stamp) then you remain largely unaffected by the Executive Order and should follow the tips below if you travel outside the U.S.

- Have the 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.

- No matter your country of origin or citizenship, 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. U.S. Customs

and Border Protection Officers may ask to search your phone contact or social media.

- 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. Have a contact in the U.S. you can rely on to take care of any issues here (mail, plants, pets etc.) in case you are delayed in returning. You may want to leave a key to your home with your contact in the event that you need a document or other paperwork.
- 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.