
PIPS - Partners Office for International Professionals and Students

Memorandum

To: Hospital Staff
From: Claire Ayer, Director
Date: 1/31/2017

International Travel Information for All Foreign Nationals at Partners

PIPS has received many phone calls and email inquiries from U.S. permanent residents and visa holders from all countries concerned about international travel and visa renewal. Please be aware that if you or your family members are from countries not included in the Executive Order your travel is not likely to be affected. All travelers should be certain that their documents are in order: your passport should be valid for at least six months and contain a valid visa; individuals in J-1 or J-2 status must present Form DS-2019 (F-1s require Form I-20); recent pay statements or employment verification letters are recommended.

The Executive Order that was issued on Friday, January 27th has created grave concerns for foreign nationals in the Partners community. Please be aware that while travel for citizens of the countries listed below has been significantly impacted, not everyone is affected.

Executive Order

The order suspends the ability of nationals of the following countries to travel to the United States for at least 90 days:

- Iran
- Iraq
- Libya
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Syria
- Yemen

U.S. permanent residents (“green card” holders) from these countries are not subject to the order, according to [clarification](#) provided by the administration. *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.

The order does not define what it means to be “from” a designated country. **Until this issue has been clarified, we advise interpreting this in the broadest possible manner** to include passport holders, citizens, nationals, dual nationals, and individuals born in these countries. Family members who are from the designated countries may fall under this order even if the primary visa holder does not.

Federal courts in Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, and Washington issued temporary orders staying implementation of aspects of the Executive Order, but the court orders are time limited and specific to certain geographic areas and situations. The U.S. District Court of Massachusetts issued a seven-day stay on January 29th that applies to U.S. permanent residents, citizens, visa holders, approved refugees, and other individuals from the identified countries subject to the Executive Order. The ruling (i) limits secondary inspection screening; (ii) bars detention or removal of foreign nationals otherwise legally authorized to enter the U.S., (with immigrant and nonimmigrant visas, as well as approved refugee documents) absent the EO; and (iii) requires Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to notify airlines that individuals on flights to Boston’s Logan International Airport will not be detained or returned based solely on the basis of the EO. (sources indicate that the flight must be a *direct* flight to Logan).

Travel and Visa Applications

Anyone applying for a visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate may experience delays as all applicants must be interviewed. Check the website of the consulate where you will apply for your visa for appointment and [processing time estimates](#).

Technology Alert List

Furthermore, we advise caution to **all foreign nationals who may travel internationally to renew a visa** at a United States consular post. 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 at U.S. consular posts in order to avoid potentially lengthy administrative processing or related screening delays. Click [here](#) for more analyses about the Department of State’s Technology Alert List.

We will continue to monitor this situation closely and provide updates as more information becomes available. Please [contact us](#) if you have additional queries or concerns.

Visa sponsorship outside of Partners

If your visa is sponsored by an outside entity (such as ECFMG, CIDC, Cultural Vistas) or a university, please confer with that entity or your Foreign Student Advisor.

A note to the entire Partners community

All travelers, *regardless of citizenship or nationality*, should anticipate additional screening when applying for entry to the U.S. if they have visited any of the countries that appear on the list above.