



U.S. Embassy in Singapore
 Consular Section
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American Citizen Services (ACS) Newsletter

September - October 2008

A New Service – Our ACS Newsletter

In an effort to keep you better informed, we are pleased to share with you our inaugural bi-monthly ACS Newsletter. The newsletter will be our way of sharing topics of general interest as well as any changes in Embassy hours or procedures. We will continue to send time-sensitive announcements separately. If you need to update your registration, please click [here](#). Please share your feedback with us at SingaporeACS@state.gov. *Thank you!*

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Consular Section Closures – Holidays and Admin/Training Days

The Consular section will be closed on the following dates in September and October.

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| *Thursday, September 25, 2008 | Admin/Training Day |
| Wednesday, October 1, 2008 | Singapore Holiday – Hari Raya Puasa |
| Monday, October 13, 2008 | U.S. Holiday – Columbus Day |
| Monday, October 27, 2008 | Singapore Holiday – Deepavali |
| *Thursday, October 30, 2008 | Admin/Training Day |

* Admin/Training Days: We will be closed for all routine American Citizen Services such as passport renewal, extra passport pages and notarial services on these days. Regular services will resume the following day. For emergency services at any time during an Admin/Training day, please call 6476-9251 during normal business hours.

Holidays: The Embassy observes certain local and American holidays. On these days, the Consular Section will be closed. For an emergency involving an American citizen, please contact the Duty Officer at 6476-9100.

Register to Vote NOW!!

American citizens should register to vote now for the November 4, 2008 presidential and general elections. Many states close voter registration 30 days before the general election. Don't forget that it takes time for voting forms to reach the United States by mail.

Voters who have not yet registered to vote and requested an absentee ballot should complete a Federal Postcard

Application (FPCA) on the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at www.fvap.gov. You may also pick up a hard copy of the FPCA from any U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

You should also complete a new Federal Postcard Application if you have moved or changed your name since the last time you voted.

FPCAs may be mailed to your local voting officials in the U.S. through the regular international mail or from any U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Some states also accept FPCAs by fax or e-mail.

Voting

Your local voting officials should mail your absentee ballot 30 to 45 days before the November 4 general election to your overseas address. Return your voted ballot as early as possible. Be aware of your state's ballot receipt deadline, as well as any postmarking requirements.

Emergency Ballots

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) serves as an emergency ballot for voters who registered in time but fail to receive an official ballot from local election officials. You can access the FWAB using www.fvap.gov as well.

Questions?

The **Voting Assistance Officer** at the U.S. Embassy in Singapore is always available to answer questions about absentee voting. To contact the Voting Assistance Officer, call 6476-9314 or send an e-mail to VoteSINGAPORE@state.gov

Information on Dengue Fever and Chikungunya

Despite vigorous mosquito eradication efforts in Singapore, from time to time Singapore experiences a spike in the number of dengue fever cases. Dengue fever is endemic in Singapore and outbreaks tend to be clustered in residential areas. There have been no reports of clusters in primary tourist areas, such as the Night Safari, the Singapore zoo, or Orchard Road.

So far this year, there have been three deaths in Singapore from dengue fever. The latest casualty was a 66-year-old Singaporean residing at Bukit Merah, who developed fever on June 15, and died on June 18.

Information on dengue fever may be obtained from the Singapore Ministry of Health at <http://www.moh.gov.sg/mohcorp/default.aspx> or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); fax 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or via the CDC's web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>

Additionally, there have also been recent news reports in Singapore about an outbreak of a new strain of the viral disease chikungunya. Like dengue fever, chikungunya is transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, but is not fatal. The recent cases, unlike prior cases in Singapore, were contracted locally, and as of September 2008, there were a total of 178 cases which have been confirmed. Information on chikungunya may be obtained from the Singapore Ministry of health at: <http://www.moh.gov.sg/mohcorp/default.aspx>