

U.S. Embassy in Singapore

Consular Section

<http://singapore.usembassy.gov>

<http://www.travel.state.gov>

SingaporeACS@state.gov

Tel: (65) 6476-9100

American Citizen Services (ACS) Newsletter

October-November 2010

The newsletter is 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 (now called Safe Traveler Enrollment Program or STEP), please click [here](#). Please share your feedback with us at SingaporeACS@state.gov. *Thank you!*

If you no longer live in or travel to Singapore, please send us an email with your full name and your request for removal to SingaporeACS@state.gov.

The U.S. Embassy is now on **Facebook**. Please click [here](#) and become a "fan" today.

Topics covered in this Issue:

Upcoming Holiday and Administrative Closures

Updated Travel Information

Please Make Note of an Error within our last Newsletter in the Topic of Interest: Want to Avoid those Long Immigration Lines in the U.S.?

Tips to Minimize your Wait in Citizen's Services at the Embassy

Can I Still Vote in this Up and Coming Election if I didn't Register?

Topic of Interest: Check out the U.S. National Institutes of Health Website on Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Upcoming ACS Closures

The Consular section will be closed on the following dates in October and November 2010. For an emergency during these holidays involving an American citizen, please contact the Duty Officer at 6476-9100.

October 11, 2010 (Monday)	U.S Holiday Columbus Day
October 21, 2010 (Thursday)	Consular Administrative Day*
November 5, 2010 (Friday)	Singapore Holiday Deepavali
November 11, 2010 (Thursday)	U.S. Holiday Veterans Day
November 17, 2010 (Wednesday)	Singapore Holiday Hari Raya Haji
November 25, 2010 (Thursday)	U.S. Holiday Thanksgiving

Every Thursday afternoon from 12noon onward we are routinely closed to the public for training and administrative purposes except for collection of passports between 3:00-3:30.

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 at any time.

* We will be closed for all routine American Citizen Services such as passport renewal, extra passport pages and notarial services on these days. We will be open for collection of documents only at 3:00 – 3:30pm. Regular services will resume the following working day.

Current Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts:

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. Below please find a link to a Travel Warning for a country of regional interest. For a complete listing of Travel Warnings for all regions, please visit:

<http://travel.state.gov>.

[Korea, Democratic People's Republic of](#)

August 27, 2010

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions, generally within a particular country, that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Below please find a link to a Travel Alert for a country of regional interest. For a complete listing of Travel Alerts for all regions, please visit: <http://travel.state.gov>

[India](#)

September 2, 2010

Current Warden Messages of regional interest:

Warden Messages are notices sent directly to American citizens to provide important information about local conditions.

[Shooting at Jama Masjid Mosque in Old Delhi, India](#)

September 19, 2010

[Jammu and Kashmir Civil Unrest in India](#)

September 15, 2010

[Cholera in Kathmandu, Nepal](#)

September 13, 2010

[Response in Dhaka, Bangladesh to threatened Quran burning in Florida](#)

September 11, 2010

[Anthrax in slaughtered livestock in Bangladesh](#)

September 9, 2010

[Floods in Jammu and Kashmir in Leh, India](#)

August 9, 2010

[Reported Threats in Bangkok, Thailand](#)

August 6, 2010

[Non-specific threat against Islamabad Serena Hotel in Pakistan](#)

August 5, 2010

[Flooding alert in China](#)

August 4, 2010

Updated Country Specific Information for countries in our region:

The Department of State maintains at all times Country Specific Information for every country in the world. This information is updated approximately twice a year or as necessary due to changing conditions. Recently, updates have been posted for the following countries in the region.

[Thailand](#)

September 16, 2010

[Cambodia](#)

September 1, 2010

[Burma \(Myanmar\)](#)

August 25, 2010

[China](#)

August 11, 2010

Please Make Note of an Error in our last Newsletter in the Topic of Interest: Want to avoid those long Immigration lines in the U.S.?

The **corrected version** is in bold below. We apologize for any confusion.

Global Entry is a service put in place by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) Agency. You can find these Global Entry kiosks in 20 major airports across the United States. Check out their website at www.globalentry.gov. So, bypass those long immigration lines in the U.S. and pursue being a Global Entry applicant. **This Global Entry service is only available to American citizens and only of use in the United States. It is not of any value in APEC lines of other countries.** The fee is US\$100, requires a stateside appointment, fingerprinting, and persons age 14 and up are eligible to apply. Approved candidates are eligible to use this service for 5 years.

Tips to Minimize your Wait in Citizen's Services at the Embassy

- **Appointments required for all under the age of 16.** No appointments accepted for adults. Adults are asked to take a queue number and wait to be seen.
- For new or renewal passport applications, **come with a 2" x 2" passport photo.** New regulation only requires one photo, white background. We have an onsite do-it-yourself passport photo booth in the Visa Services waiting room. It is not equipped for infant passport photos.
- Application fees are non-refundable and **forms of payment are:** major credit card and cash by U.S. dollar or Singapore dollar.
- Your **passport** must be brought in with the application but **is returned the same day so that you may continue traveling** while your new passport is being made.
- Check our **closure dates** on our website. Click [here](#).
- Persons applying for **adult passport renewals** may authorize someone else to submit their DS-82 passport application and pick up their passport. You as the citizen **can staff it out** to anyone, permitting you to avoid a trip to the embassy all together. Talk about saving time. . . **This is what is required:**
 - 2" x 2" passport photo, white background
 - Current Passport
 - \$US110 fee
 - completed DS-82 application

- signed/dated authorization letter permitting a specific person to submit the application and pick up the passport for you.

(The passport will be returned the same day to your courier to enable you to continue traveling. We will email you when the new passport is ready for pick up should it come in prior to the pickup date provided on the pickup slip.)

For more passport information or application forms click [here](#). Here at the U.S. Embassy Singapore we do not mail passports. All passport applications must be printed out and brought in. They cannot be submitted online.

Can I Still Vote in this Upcoming Election if I didn't Register?

Please Vote!!!

Absentee Voting Week is Sept. 27-Oct. 4, 2010.

Depending on which state you are a resident of, you still may be able to vote. Start by visiting <https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/eod.htm> and look up the specific state where you last resided to see what their current requirements and deadlines are for voter registration as well as voting ballot deadlines. Some states do not require you to have registered within the year to vote in that year's election. The Federal Voting Assistance Program has provided multiple ways to get answers to your voting questions:

- **Go to the FVAP website** www.fvap.gov for quick information.
- You are welcome to **visit our Singapore Embassy ACS Intake window** with questions and view the book on the counter that contains state-specific information.
- Call the Federal Voting Assistance Program hotline at **1-800-438-8683** in the U.S. which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- **Email FVAP at:** vote@fvap.gov.

There are **35 seats in the Senate** up for grabs, **435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives** coming open, and **38 governorships** waiting to be filled. **[Let your voice be heard.](#)**

Topic of Interest: Check out the U.S. National Institutes of Health Website on Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Click [here](#).

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine is a branch under the NIH. This center maintains a wealth of information on their website available to you the public as well as to health professionals. They also conduct and support research on alternative medicines in order to help persons understand which complementary and alternative medicine therapies have been proven to be safe and effective.

Click on their **A–Z Index of Health Topics** to look up conditions, treatments, and alternative medicines. Some of their current website topics are as follows:

- [Are You Considering Using CAM?](#)
- [Selecting a CAM Practitioner](#)
- [Credentialing CAM Providers](#)
- [CAM Use and Children](#)
- [Tips for Talking With Your Health Care Providers About CAM](#)
- [Paying for CAM Treatment](#)
- [Evaluating Web-Based Health Resources](#)

- [Health Fraud Awareness \(FDA\)](#)
- [Using Dietary Supplements Wisely](#)
- [Dietary and Herbal Supplements](#)
- [Herbs at a Glance](#)