

Welcome to the first issue of our new quarterly newsletter the **Hyderabad Herald**, a publication intended solely for the American citizens residing in or visiting our consular district which includes the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha. We hope you find this informative and encourage you to send us your feedback. We also encourage you to submit items of general interest to our community.

While we can't accept advertising, we welcome other pieces of interest including events, meetings, or other activities. We also welcome your questions or suggestions on consular themes you would like us to address. To submit any contributions or to add or remove your name from our mailing list, just drop us an e-mail at: [HydACS@state.gov](mailto:HydACS@state.gov) and include "Herald" in the subject line.



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## Update on Services at the Consulate

Thank you for your patience during this particularly difficult time of COVID-19. While we understand your frustration with longer than normal waiting times for services, the Consulate still provides only limited in-person appointments. If you are unable to find an available time on our website, we encourage you to check back frequently as new slots are regularly added.

Minors and those completing the DS-11 form for their first adult passport can schedule an appointment online at: <https://in.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>. Adult U.S. citizens using the form DS-82 to renew a previous passport can courier the application to the Consulate or use the new drop box to leave your completed application in a sealed envelope at the main gate of the Consulate.

Limited Consular Report of Birth Abroad, Notary and other services appointments are available on the website [U.S. Citizen Services | U.S. Embassy & Consulates in India.](#)

U.S. citizens with emergencies should call the U.S. Consulate General at [040-4033-8300](tel:040-4033-8300) ([011-91-40-4033-8300](tel:011-91-40-4033-8300) from the United States). After normal business hours (08:30 – 17:00 Monday through Friday), you will be directed to an Officer on Duty,

## Virtual Town Hall Meeting

The Consulate will hold a virtual American Citizen Town Hall on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will provide participants an opportunity to connect with Consulate officials and share priorities and concerns and to ask questions.

Participating in the one-hour event will be Consul General Joel Reifman, Consular Chief Clark Ledger, and a representative of the CDC office in New Delhi. Topics will include plans for the New Consulate Compound in Hyderabad, the U.S.-India relationship, and a discussion of the U.S. Government's latest actions and advice on COVID-19. Participants will have the chance to submit questions in advance or during the session. A registration link will be sent out through the Consulate's social media channels and to the STEP mailing list.

## Holiday Trivia: Presidents' Day



The origin of Presidents' Day lies in the 1880s, when the birthday of Washington—commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and the first president of the United States—was first celebrated as a federal holiday. In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill, which moved a number of federal holidays to Mondays. The change was designed to schedule certain holidays so that workers had a number of long weekends throughout the year.

During debate on the bill, it was proposed that Washington's Birthday be renamed Presidents' Day to honor the birthdays of both Washington (February 22) and Lincoln (February 12). Following much discussion, Congress rejected the name change.

After the bill went into effect in 1971, however, Presidents' Day became the commonly accepted name, due in part to retailers' use of that name to promote sales and the holiday's proximity to Lincoln's birthday. Presidents' Day is usually marked by public ceremonies in Washington, D.C., and throughout the country.



# It's Tax Season!

## What you need to know about filing your tax returns from outside the United States

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing income, estate, and gift tax returns and paying estimated tax are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside.

### When to File

If you are a [U.S. citizen](#) or [resident alien](#) residing overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., on the regular due date of your return, you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return without requesting an extension. For a calendar year return, the automatic 2-month extension is to June 15. Note that you must pay any tax due by April 15 or interest will be charged starting from April 15.

### Where to File

If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien (including a green card holder) and you live in a foreign country, mail your U.S. tax return to:

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Center  
Austin, TX 73301-0215  
USA

### Electronic Filing (e-file)

Taxpayers with an AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) within a specified threshold can electronically file their tax return for free using [Free File](#). Taxpayers with an AGI greater than the specified threshold can use the [Free File Fillable Forms](#), the [e-file by purchasing commercial software](#), or the [Authorized IRS e-file Provider Locator Service](#).

For more information or to find specific tax forms, please visit the [IRS's website](#).

### Latest Updates on Coronavirus Tax Relief

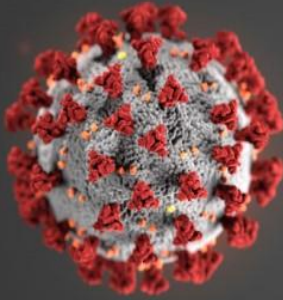
The Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department have started delivering a second round of Economic Impact Payments as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 to millions of Americans who

received the first round of payments earlier this year.

No action is required by eligible individuals to receive this second payment. The IRS reminds taxpayers that the payments are automatic, and they should not contact their financial institutions or the IRS with payment timing questions.

As with the first round of payments, most recipients will receive these payments by direct deposit. For Social Security and other beneficiaries who received the first round of payments via Direct Express, they will receive this second payment the same way.

For more information about Coronavirus Tax Relief and Economic Impact Payments, visit the [IRS's website](#).



# FAQs about the COVID-19 Vaccines

## Which lasts longer, immunity after getting COVID-19 or protection from a vaccine?

The protection someone gains from having an infection (called “natural immunity”) varies depending on the disease, and it varies from person to person. Because this virus is new, we don’t know how long natural immunity might last. Current evidence suggests that getting the virus again (reinfection) is uncommon in the 90 days after the first infection with the virus that causes COVID-19.

We won’t know how long immunity lasts after vaccination until we have more data on how well COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions.

Experts are working to learn more about both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity. CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

## What percentage of the population needs to get vaccinated to have herd immunity?

Experts do not yet know what percentage of people would need to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19. Herd immunity means that enough people in a community are protected from getting a disease because they’ve already had the disease, or they’ve been vaccinated. Herd immunity makes it hard for the disease to spread from person to person, and it even protects those who cannot be

vaccinated, like newborns. The percentage of people who need to have protection in order to achieve herd immunity varies by disease. CDC and other experts are studying herd immunity and will provide more information as it is available.

## What are the ingredients in COVID-19 vaccines?

The two COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States do **not** contain eggs, preservatives, or latex. For a full list of ingredients, please see each vaccine’s Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers:

- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19](#)

For more information, visit the [CDC website](#).

## IMPORTANT NOTICE: COVID Testing Required for US Entry

Effective January 26, 2021, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will require all air passengers entering the United States (including U.S. citizens and Legal Permanent Residents) to present negative COVID-19 test results taken within three calendar days of departure, or proof of recovery from the virus within the last 90 days. Airlines must confirm the negative result or proof of recovery for all passengers two years of age and over prior to boarding. Airlines must deny boarding of passengers who do not provide documentation of a negative test or recovery.

## Travel Warnings Stay in the Know!

Did you know the State Department publishes worldwide or regional public announcements or country specific travel warnings? Check out this short [video](#) or visit the [website](#) for more information.

## Useful Websites

### US Government

- Embassy website: <http://www.in.usembassy.gov>
- U.S. Citizen Services: <https://in.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>
- U.S. State Department: <http://www.state.gov>
- Travel information: <http://www.travel.state.gov/>
- Ordering vital records: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm>
- Voting information: [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

### Indian Government

- Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO): <https://indianfrro.gov.in/eservices/home.jsp>
- Bureau of Immigration: <https://boi.gov.in/>
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare: <https://main.mohfw.gov.in>





## Upcoming Holidays/Events

Please note that the Consulate will be closed on the following holidays:

- February 15: Washington's Birthday (US)
- April 2: Good Friday (Indian)
- April 13: Ugadi (Indian)



## Travel Tips

Make a copy of all your travel documents in case of an emergency and leave them with a trusted friend or relative.

It's also a good idea to take a photo of the data page of your passport with your mobile phone. This way, you will always have a copy available when traveling.



Do you have family and friends hoping to visit the United States in the near future?

Beginning February 1, 2021, U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad has resumed limited processing of all visa categories, including student visas, H1-B, H4, L-1, L-2, C1/D, and B1/B2 visas. Our capacity is limited, however, to maintain the safety of our customers and staff.

For more information, go [here](#).

## Smart Traveler Enrolment Program (STEP)



### What Is STEP?

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

### Benefits of enrolling in STEP

- Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country.
- Help us contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

Visit the [STEP website](#) to register or for more information.



## President Biden's Inaugural Address

On January 20, 2021, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States of America. If you missed the inauguration, you can find President Biden's remarks to the nation [here](#).

## STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)