

U.S. MISSION

GERMANY

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For more information, click here.

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American Citizen News

Happy Birthday, America!

Happy 233rd!



July 4th... Revolutionary Facts

- #1 Independence Was Declared on the **SECOND** of July.
- #2 The Declaration of Independence was signed on **August 2**.
- #3 The first Independence Day was celebrated on **Eighth** of July

For more on these — and other — notable facts on the history of America's Birthday, take a look at the top 5 Myths about the Fourth of July, compiled by George Mason University's History News Network, at <http://hnn.us/articles/132.html>.



go from here!

We may not be there when you take that test or write that thesis but we will help you get there... Through a new comprehensive website, the U.S. Department of State offers college students a one-stop reference for international travel. The website offers country-specific information, tips for safe travel, and answers important questions, such as:

- Who to contact if you are victim of a crime
- What to do in case of a natural disaster or emergency
- Where the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate is located
- When to apply for a passport and visa
- How to vote in U.S. election from abroad

For information, visit studentsabroad.state.gov

Novel H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) and You

What is novel H1N1 (swine flu)?

Novel H1N1 (referred to as "swine flu" early on) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. Other countries, including Germany, have reported people sick with this new virus. This virus is spreading from person-to-person, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread. (Cont'd p. 3)



For more information and great tips on international travel, please visit:
www.travel.state.gov

See page 4
 for more on renewing
 your U.S. passport

For additional
 information on bringing
 liquids onboard, visit
[http://www.tsa.gov/311/
 index.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/311/index.shtm)

ESTA registration is
 required for German
 citizens traveling to the
 U.S. under the Visa
 Waiver Program
[Click here](#) for more
 Information.

Ah, Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer Those Days of Soda and Pretzels and Beer..

Travel Tips

With the summer travel season for expatriates getting into full swing, we'd like to offer the following suggestions to help make your trip a pleasant one.

Passports: Check those **expiration dates!** Every day, at Consulates around the world, American citizens can be found, frantically trying to get new passports for their children. The reason: They forgot that unlike adult passports which are valid for ten years, children's passports expire after five years. And, also unlike adult passports, children's passports cannot be renewed by mail; they must be renewed in person at the Embassy or one of the Consulates. Both parents must provide consent for **children under 16**. From Germany, in the peak season, processing time from the day of your visit to the day you can expect to receive the passport in the mail is approximately 3 weeks. Visit Mission Germany's website, at www.usembassy.de, and click on U.S. Citizen Services for specific details.

International Travel: The State Department maintains a wealth of information on every country in the world at www.travel.state.gov. Under the International Travel tab at www.travel.state.gov/travel/travel_1744.html, you can find visa requirements, security cautions, health risks, etc. Above all, the website tells you how to **register your trip** in the country you're visiting. In these turbulent times, it's always a good idea to let the American Embassy staff know who's in their district.

Packing: Make Your Trip Better Using 3-1-1
3-1-1 for carry-ons = 3.4 ounce bottle or less (by volume) ; 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin. One-quart bag per person limits the total liquid volume each traveler can bring. 3.4 oz. container size is a security measure. Also, note that many U.S. airlines have recently introduced **new baggage fees** on U.S. domestic flights. Check with your airline before you travel.

Visas: There is a new ESTA requirement for those traveling under the Visa Waiver Program. **ESTA registration** is done online and is free of charge (see sidebar for a link to more info). To find out if your non-U.S. Citizen family members, or friends are eligible to travel visa free to the U.S. please consult our website www.usembassy.de. The site will also explain for those not eligible for the Visa Waiver Program what kind of non-immigrant visas are available and how to apply for the visa you need. **All visa applicants require an appointment**, and a completed electronic application. Both the application and the appointment can now be done online through the website at <http://www.usvisa-germany.com/>.

Important Note: Not all German passports can be used for travel to the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program. To see whether your German passport qualifies for visa-free travel, see this [informational page](#) (in German).

Novel H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) and You (continued from page 1)

Why is novel H1N1 virus sometimes called “swine flu”?

This virus was originally referred to as “swine flu” because laboratory testing showed that many of the genes in this new virus were very similar to influenza viruses that normally occur in pigs in North America. But further study has shown that this new virus is very different from what normally circulates in North American pigs. It has two genes from flu viruses that normally circulate in pigs in Europe and Asia and avian genes and human genes. Scientists call this a "quadruple reassortant" virus.

Is novel H1N1 virus contagious?

CDC has determined that novel H1N1 virus is contagious and is spreading from human to human. However, at this time, it is not known how easily the virus spreads between people.

What are the signs and symptoms of this virus in people?

The symptoms of novel H1N1 flu virus in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting. Also, like seasonal flu, severe illnesses and death has occurred as a result of illness associated with this virus particularly with people having other underlying health problems.

How severe is illness associated with novel H1N1 flu virus?

It's not known at this time how severe novel H1N1 flu virus will be in the general population. In seasonal flu, there are certain people that are at [higher risk of serious flu-related complications](#). This includes people 65 years and older, children younger than five years old, pregnant women, and people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions. Early indications are that pregnancy and other previously recognized medical conditions that increase the risk of influenza-related complications, like asthma and diabetes, also appear to be associated with increased risk of complications from novel H1N1 virus infection as well.

One thing that appears to be different from seasonal influenza is that adults older than 64 years do not yet appear to be at increased risk of novel H1N1-related complications thus far in the outbreak. CDC is conducting laboratory studies to see if certain people might have natural immunity to this virus, depending on their age. Early reports indicate that no children and few adults younger than 60 years old have existing antibody to novel H1N1 flu virus; however, about one-third of adults older than 60 may have antibodies against this virus. It is unknown how much, if any, protection may be afforded against novel H1N1 flu by any existing antibody.

Can I get infected with novel H1N1 virus from eating or preparing pork?

No. Novel H1N1 viruses are not spread by food. You cannot get infected with novel H1N1 virus from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork products is safe.

What can I do to protect myself from getting sick?

There is no vaccine available right now to protect against novel H1N1 virus. There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza.

Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus further.

For more information, please visit the [H1N1 Flu web page at the CDC](#).

The U.S. Passport Card

Passport Cards Are Now Available at the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Germany

The Department of State began production of the U.S. Passport Card on July 14, 2008. To date, we have issued over 1,000,000 U.S. Passport Cards. Applications for the U.S. Passport Card are being processed in approximately 4-6 weeks from the time of application.

The wallet-size passport card is convenient and less expensive than the passport book. This new travel document can be used to enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda at land border crossings or sea ports-of-entry. **Please note: the U.S. Passport Card cannot be used for international air travel or for crossing international borders other than those specified above. But it can be carried as proof of U.S. citizenship while you are abroad.**

For more information, click on: http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html.

To apply for a Passport or a Passport Card, visit the [Mission Germany Web Site](#).



Passport Reminders

- Is your passport expiring soon?
- Are you running short on visa pages in your passport?
- Do you need to apply for a U.S. passport for your newborn?

Find out all about this — and more — at http://germany.usembassy.gov/acs/passport_issuance.html.

Some Rules of Thumb:

- Apply early. Full-validity passports are now printed in the United States and cannot be issued immediately.
- Passport Services are now offered in Berlin, Frankfurt, and Munich. **An appointment is required** for passport services in Frankfurt and Munich. To find out which Consulate serves your area and how to make an appointment, visit <http://germany.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html>.

Mail-In applications are possible if you can answer yes to all of the following conditions:

- Your U.S. passport was issued within the last 15 years.
- You were at least 16 years old at the time your most recent U.S. passport was issued.
- Your most recent U.S. passport is not damaged/lost/stolen and you are able to submit that passport.
- You use the same name as on your most recent U.S. passport; or You have changed your name and can submit legal documentation to show this change.

If you cannot meet all of these conditions, you will need to appear in person to renew your passport.



Farewell Message from Consul General JoEllen Powell

Dear Fellow Americans:

I have had the privilege of serving as the Consul General in Frankfurt for the past three years. All good things come to an end, and I must now move on to a new assignment. Before I go, I want to wish you all a Happy Independence Day on this my last 4th of July here. We come to Germany for many different reasons, some, like me, for U.S. Government service, others at the request of their employers, some out of commitments to your family, or because of a desire to study and explore new worlds, or many simply to return home. All of us here at the Consulate General count ourselves lucky to be a part of such a vibrant, diverse American community. As Consul General I have had the opportunity to meet many of you, to share your experiences, listen to your stories, and direct the provision of services to you and your families. The State Department has no higher duty than the protection of Americans abroad, and the men and women of Frankfurt's Consular Section are privileged to serve you. Through your interactions with your colleagues, neighbors, and friends, you shape the face of America for Germany and serve as Ambassadors for us all. Thank you for your daily contributions to the close and lasting friendship between our two nations. As I glance out at the Mainhattan skyline for one of the last times, I wish all of you the best as you continue forward in this unique expatriate life. Be safe, travel well, and, as we say in Germany, "Auf Wiedersehen."

Sincerely,
JoEllen Powell

Opening Hours and Contact Information

U.S. Consulate General Frankfurt

Giessener Strasse 30

60435 Frankfurt am Main

<http://frankfurt.usconsulate.gov>

Passport Unit

Open by appointment: 7:30am to 11:30am, M-F

Tel: (069) 7535-2100, 2:00pm to 4:00pm only

Fax: (069) 7535-2304

Email: frankfurtpassports@state.gov
frankfurtbirthabroad@state.gov

Special Consular Services

Open by appointment: 7:30am to 11:30am, M-F

Tel: (069) 7535-2102

Email: GermanyACS@state.gov

After-Hour Emergencies: (069) 7535-0

Holiday Closures



Friday, July 3:

Thursday, July 30:

Thursday, August 27:

Monday, September 7:

Thursday, September 24:

Monday, October 12:

Independence Day (observed)

Staff Administrative Day

Staff Administrative Day

Labor Day

Staff Administrative Day

Columbus Day

Upcoming Events

No time to drive to Frankfurt?? Need a new Passport? Want to register your children as American Citizens? Have Visa questions?

On **July 16th** the Consulate will hold an Outreach for American Citizens living in the greater **Kaiserslautern** area.

On **September 15th** we will hold an American Citizen Information night in **Frankfurt**.

And check our [website](#) for upcoming announcements on an outreach day in **Stuttgart** in September.

Exact **locations** and **times** TBD; please check our website in the coming [weeks](#).