



# Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 21

October, 2009

## 2009-H1N1 Influenza Update

This newsletter is published by the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit, U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai. If there are any particular topics you are interested in, please contact ACS at: [ShanghaiACS@state.gov](mailto:ShanghaiACS@state.gov).

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This Warden Message alerts U.S. citizens to the latest information regarding human cases of 2009-H1N1 influenza, sometimes referred to as novel H1N1 or swine flu. China has instituted the following procedures for border authorities to screen for the possibility of influenza among passengers on arriving international flights:

Prior to disembarking from the aircraft, passengers will be required to complete and submit a Health and Quarantine (H&Q) declaration card, which will be provided by the air carrier. H&Q officials will collect the cards on board the aircraft or plane-side.

All passengers will be required to proceed through two separate thermal-scanning checkpoints. Temperature readings are taken by hand wands or from fixed-position infrared monitors that do not make any contact with the traveler. The Shanghai Public Health Bureau has notified the U.S. Consulate General Shanghai that passengers with temperatures exceeding 38 degrees Celsius (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) could be subject to quar-

antine or be sent to a hospital to test for the presence of H1N1.

If you are quarantined or placed in isolation due to 2009-H1N1 influenza, please contact the U.S. Embassy or Consulate at the number below so we can monitor your situation. However, please be aware that if you are detained or quarantined the U.S. Government is not authorized to demand your immediate release.

Due to legal restrictions and a lack of sufficient resources, the U.S. Embassy or Consulate is not in a position to provide private citizens with pandemic-related supplies, medications or medical treatment, including vaccines, and cannot provide specific medical advice. Questions and concerns about influenza or other illnesses should be directed to a medical professional. A list of local hospitals and doctors can be found on our website at [http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/health\\_and\\_safety.html](http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/health_and_safety.html).

For more information on how to prepare for a severe pandemic, please

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### Special points of interest:

- \* 2009-H1N1 Influenza Update
- \* Twitter for Travel Warnings
- \* Who Must Register for Selective Service?
- \* News: Four Arrested After Men Robbed in Honey Trap

## Upcoming Holidays and Other Closures

Please remember that the days just before and just after a holiday are often extremely busy and you can expect significantly longer wait times. If you visit us outside of these times, you should have a shorter wait.

A full list of all of our holiday closings is available online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/holidays.html>.

The American Citizen Services Unit will be **CLOSED** all day on the following days:

**Nov.11 Wed.**  
**Veteran's Day**

**Nov.26 Thur.**  
**Thanksgiving Day**

## China - Security Concerns in the City of Urumqi

### September 09, 2009

The State Department alerts U.S. citizens to safety and security concerns in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, particularly in the city of Urumqi. U.S. citizens are advised to carefully consider travel to the Xinjiang Uyghur region at this time. This Travel Alert expires on December 10, 2009.

On September 3, 2009, thousands of Chinese took to the streets of Urumqi to demand in-

creased security after reports of alleged needle stabbings. According to New China News Agency (Xinhua) and other news sources, five people were killed and fourteen were wounded in the protests. Following an early-July outbreak of ethnic violence, tensions have continued and a



heavy security presence is in place in Urumqi, Kashgar, Hotan, and other major cities in the region.

The Embassy is closely monitoring the situation in Xinjiang. U.S. citizens in Xinjiang, and especially in Urumqi and other regional cities, are advised to avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place. Banks, shops and schools in Urumqi may close unexpectedly. Communications and transportation routes have reportedly been restricted; however, the Chinese authorities report the airport, railway, and roads remain open.

## Security Situation - Travel Warnings and Alerts

Security reminder: It is prudent for you and your family to review your personal security profile and to be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Since our previous Newsletter for September 2009, the U.S. Department of State has issued new Travel Warnings for the following countries.

<u>Guinea</u>	10/01/2009
<u>Lebanon</u>	09/29/2009
<u>Cote d'Ivoire</u>	09/22/2009
<u>Philippines</u>	09/17/2009

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. This information is available at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html).

The U.S. Department of State also has issued new Travel Alerts:

<u>Cuba</u>	10/09/2009
<u>China</u>	09/25/2009
<u>Mozambique</u>	09/23/2009
<u>Germany</u>	09/23/2009

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert. This information is available at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_1766.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html).

An earlier Travel Alert for China, regarding H1N1 quarantine procedures, has recently been updated, and is available at: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_4238.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4238.html).

The Department has also released a

Travel Warning for the Philippines, calling attention to terrorist and insurgent activities in the southern islands of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago. Please check the following link for more information:

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_2190.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_2190.html).

The most up-to-date information regarding permitted and prohibited items on flights can be viewed online at <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>.

For additional information, please visit "Americans Traveling Abroad" on the U.S. Department of State website: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans\\_1252.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html). Students traveling abroad may wish to visit the State Department site designed for them: <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>.

To obtain up-to-date information on security conditions, please call 1-888-407-4747 (toll free in the United States), or +1-202-501-4444 if you are outside the United States.

## 2009-H1N1 Influenza Update

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see the State Department "Pandemic Influenza Fact Sheet" and "Options During a Pandemic" flyer located on [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). Detailed information about 2009-H1N1 influenza can be found on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>, the U.S. Government's federal influenza website at <http://www.flu.gov>, and the World Health Organization website at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>.

U.S. citizens residing or traveling in China are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>, to obtain updated travel and security information. U.S. citizens without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Registration is important; it allows the U.S. Embassy or Consu-

-late and the State Department to assist you in an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy can be reached 24 hours per day at 86-10-8531-3000. The addresses and telephone contact information for the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in China are at the bottom of this announcement.

**U.S. Embassy Beijing:**  
Tian Ze Road intersection of An Jia Lou Road, Chaoyang District. Telephone number during regular business hours and for after-hours emergencies: 86-10-8531-4000, Email: [amcitbeijing@state.gov](mailto:amcitbeijing@state.gov). Embassy's website: [beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn](http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn).

**U.S. Consulate General Chengdu:**  
Number 4, Lingshiguan Road, Section 4, Renmin Nanlu, Chengdu 610041, tel. 86-28-8558-3992, Email: [consularchengdu@state.gov](mailto:consularchengdu@state.gov). For after hours emergencies, please call 86-28-1370-800-1422.

**U.S. Consulate General Guangzhou:**  
The Consular Section is located at 5th Floor, Tianyu Garden (II phase), 136-146 Lin He Zhong Lu, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 510133, tel. (86-20) 8518-7605, Email: [GuangzhouACS@state.gov](mailto:GuangzhouACS@state.gov). Guangzhou adoptions Email: [GuangzhouA@state.gov](mailto:GuangzhouA@state.gov). For after hours emergencies, please call 86-20-8121-8000.

**U.S. Consulate General Shanghai:**  
The Consular Section is located in the Westgate Mall, 8th Floor, 1038 Nanjing Xi Lu, Shanghai 200041; tel. (86-21) 3217-4650, Email: [Shanghaiacs@state.gov](mailto:Shanghaiacs@state.gov). For after hours emergencies, please call 86-21-6433-3936.

**U.S. Consulate General Shenyang:**  
No. 52, 14th Wei Road, Heping District, Shenyang 110003; tel. (86-24) 2322-1198, Email: [ShenyangACS@state.gov](mailto:ShenyangACS@state.gov). For after hours emergencies, please call 86-24-137-0988-9307.

## Tips For A Smooth Consular Visit

**Please make sure** you have read our hours of operation and have taken note of Chinese and American holidays before planning your visit.

**For passport applicants:** Complete (but don't sign) passport applications ahead of time – this considerably shortens your visit.

**For passport applicants:** Pay special attention to passport photographs requirements and make sure you obtain 2" by 2" photos.

**For minor (below age 16) passport applicants:** Parents, please remember to bring your child's original birth certificate when applying for a new or replacement passport.



**For notary clients:** Please ensure you have read your document(s) to be notarized and understand the contents. **Do not sign your document**, but make sure that all other blanks are filled in before coming to the Consulate.

**Please remember:** The fewer items you bring to the Consulate (i.e. backpacks, laptops, cellphones, etc.), the more quickly the security check will be for everyone.

## Twitter for Worldwide Travel Warnings

Join the over 8,000 followers of tweets from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs. Using twitter, you may stay up to date



on Travel Alerts and Travel Warnings around the world. Sign up at the following website: <http://twitter.com/TravelGov>.

## Who Must Register for Selective Service?

Almost all male U.S. citizens, and male aliens who are 18 through 25, are required to register with Selective Service. It's important to know that even though he is registered, a man will not automatically be inducted into

the military. In a crisis requiring a draft, men would be called in sequence determined by random lottery number and year of birth. Then, they would be examined for mental, physical and

moral fitness by the military before being deferred or exempted from military service or inducted into the Armed Forces. Go to the Selective Service web site for more information: <http://www.sss.gov>.

## Voting Information Update

### HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR VOTING ADDRESS LATELY?

Elections for Congress, state, and many municipal offices will take place



across the U.S. in November. To update your voting address or to request your absentee ballot from your state election authority, follow the instructions on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at <http://www.fvap.gov> or visit the Consulate.

**Massachusetts Voters, Submit Your Ballot Request now for the December 8, 2009 Special Primary!**

On Tuesday, December 8, 2009, Massachusetts will hold a special primary election followed by the special State election on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 to fill the vacancy left as a result of the passing of Senator Edward M. Kennedy. A list of candidates will be available by November 13, 2009. More information is available at: [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us). Additional voting information is available on the U.S. Consulate website at: <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/voting.html>.

## Leaving Shanghai Consular District?

If you are departing from Shanghai consular district after a long stay here, and you formally registered your stay with the U.S. consulate, please be sure to "cancel" your registration when you leave.

You can unregister yourself by visiting the [travelregistration.state.gov](http://travelregistration.state.gov) site if

you were previously registered through this site.

If you previously submitted a paper registration form to the U.S. consulate, you may unregister yourself by sending an email request to:

[ShanghaiACS@state.gov](mailto:ShanghaiACS@state.gov).



## News: Four Arrested After Men Robbed in Honey Trap

TWO South Asian couples have been arrested after two foreign men were seduced and robbed of nearly 100,000 yuan (US\$14,646), Shanghai No. 2 Prosecutors' Office said yesterday.

Two brothers from an unnamed South Asian country, aged 26 and 27, allegedly sent their wives out to meet foreigners over drinks, give them chocolate laced with sleeping pills and then take their property, prosecutors said.

On the early morning of July 22, one wife named only as Hanni met a man from the Netherlands in a bar in Xintiandi. She asked if she could con-

tinue the conversation over a drink at his hotel in Minhang District.

On the way there in a cab, Hanni allegedly tricked him into eating a chocolate laced with a powerful sedative. After they got to his room, the victim fell unconscious. Prosecutors allege that Hanni then took cash, his laptop, cell phone and credit card.

The suspects later used the credit card to buy gold and watches in a store. The victim suffered a loss of more than 30,000 yuan, prosecutors said.

The couples also robbed a French-

man of 28,000 yuan worth of property and a few credit cards the next day in the same way, prosecutors allege, and used the cards to buy two luxury watches valued at more than 40,000 yuan.

The suspects were caught in a Hangpu District hotel where they lived on July 24.

Prosecutors said criminal cases targeting expatriates will be severely penalized to maintain public safety as more foreigners visit before the 2010 World Expo next May.

*(From Shanghai Daily September 21, 2009  
Angela Xu)*

## News: Shanghai Warns Expats Perils of Drunk Driving

FOREIGNERS living in Shanghai were reminded that their residence permit may be revoked if they are caught driving under the influence of alcohol, the Shanghai Exit-Entry Administration Bureau was quoted by Shanghai Daily as saying.

A man from a Southeast Asian nation who was caught driving after drinking had his residence permit revoked, was ordered to serve 10 days' detention and was fined 500 yuan (73.21 U.S. dollars). He was also asked to leave the country after serving the detention. Police didn't give other details such as the suspect's name and nationality.

The man was stopped by police for a routine alcohol test on Aug. 15 when he was heading home from a party at 3 a.m.. A breathalyzer test indicated that the man was driving under the influence of alcohol. Police also said he was carrying a fake license. The man confessed that he had obtained a driving license in the United States when he studied there, but that he didn't want to go through the hassle of getting a Chinese one after moving to China so he purchased a counterfeit license, according to police.

"Since his behavior has caused danger to public security, the Shanghai Exit-Entry Administration Bureau decided to revoke his residence permit according to the country's immigration law," the bureau said in a written statement to the media Monday. "Any foreigner caught driving drunk will get the same punishment as a local," the statement added.

In a related development, Xinhua reported on Sept. 10 that a German man who caused a serious accident while driving drunk, had been ordered to serve for 15 days detention in Xi'an, the capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

The Ministry of Public Security launched a two-month nationwide campaign against drunk-driving on Aug. 15, in the wake of a series of fatal accidents which have sparked public anger against drunk drivers. Chinese police have caught 25,765 people driving under the influence of alcohol during the campaign. The ministry says drunk drivers will be suspended from driving for three or six months and, in serious cases, detained for 15 days. If a drunk driver is caught twice within a year, his or her license will be revoked for two to five years.

*(From People's Daily Online September 15, 2009)*

## Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

U.S. Consulate General,  
Shanghai, China  
1038 West Nanjing  
Road, Westgate Mall, 8th  
Floor

Tel: (86-21) 3217-4650

Fax: (86-21) 6217-2071

After Hours  
Emergencies:

(86-21) 6433-3936

Open 8:00am - 11:30am  
and 1:30pm - 3:30pm  
Monday to Friday.

\*Closed on Tuesday  
afternoons, weekends  
and holidays.

[http://shanghai.usemba  
ssy-china.org.cn/](http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/)

## Someone Asked the Consul:

### How do I travel before my new passport arrives?

It takes about 2 weeks to receive your new passport after you submit your application to the Consulate. Applicants often wonder how they can travel during those 2 weeks. Guess what — the U.S. Consulate does not keep your old passport. You can hold onto your old passport while the new one is being processed. So as long as your old passport is still valid, feel free to travel with it. Keep in mind that some countries require a foreign passport to be valid for at least 6 months, so apply early to renew your passport!

For those who have lost their U.S. passports, an official report **issued by the Chinese Entry and Exit Bureau** will allow you to travel **within** China. The same report is required when applying for a replacement U.S. passport at the Consulate. If you urgently need to travel internationally, please request an emergency passport from the Consulate.

## Electronic Applications Now Required

Starting February 15, the Shanghai American Citizen Services Section will require use of electronic application forms for all passport services, including passport renewals and adding visa pages (Form DS-11, DS-82, DS-5504 or DS-4085). After filling out your application on-line, print application and bring it to your appointment.

You may fill out the required forms at the ACS

website

[http://shanghai.usembassy-  
china.org.cn/passports.html#l  
ast](http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/passports.html#last)

Failure to fill out applications on-line, instead using handwritten applications, will delay the processing of your application.

If your passport is ever lost or stolen, you can print out a Statement Regarding Lost or Stolen Passport (DS-64). And if you are applying for a mi-

nor's passport and both parents cannot sign the application together, you can print out a Statement of Consent (DS-3053). These special forms do not need to be filled out online.

