



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 26, 2020

NOTICE

Puerto Rico “Stay Home” Order

To further combat the spread of COVID-19, the Governor of Puerto Rico, Wanda Vázquez, has issued an executive order instituting a closure for non-essential businesses on the island, and a 9:00PM to 5:00AM overnight curfew through March 30, 2020. The Governor’s executive order is available at www.estado.pr.gov/en/executive-orders.

How does this impact foreign missions and their members?

Foreign missions may continue to perform essential government operations in Puerto Rico. However, all foreign missions are expected to adopt strategies aimed at mitigating the spread of COVID-19, such as maximizing opportunities for their members to work from home (“telework”), applying social distancing of at least six feet, and avoiding local travel unless required for purposes of protecting health, safety, and protection of property.

When not performing those functions, foreign mission personnel and their dependents are expected to fully comply with the requirements of Governor’s order, including not traveling on public roads unless performing essential foreign government functions or in an emergency situation.

The Governor’s order only permits travel or walking along public roads from 5:00AM to 9:00PM when:

- Purchasing food, pharmaceuticals, and basic necessity products;
- Keeping medical appointments or visiting a hospital, laboratory, or healthcare facility;

- Going to or coming from a workplace whose closure has not been ordered (such a consular post);
- Returning to a usual place of residence from an allowed activity;
- To provide assistance, care, transportation of senior citizens, children, dependents, people with disabilities or people who require any type of medical or professional attention; or
- Visiting financial institutions.

The Department appreciates your patience and understanding as local authorities begin to implement these new restrictions.

Questions or Issues

Inquiries concerning the impacts of COVID-19 and the associated responsive effort on the operation of foreign missions in the United States should be transmitted by electronic mail to OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov.

Resources

- CDC's Coronavirus Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- CDC's Interim Guidance for Business and Employers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- Compilation of circular diplomatic notes and notices released by OFM concerning COVID-19: <https://www.state.gov/circular-notes-and-notices-covid-19/>
- Follow OFM on social media: Facebook.com@ofmdc and Twitter @OFM_Ambassador