



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 3, 2020

NOTICE

Healthcare Expectations

The Department of State wishes to remind all foreign missions of the Department's expectation that foreign missions ensure their personnel maintain adequate health insurance coverage during their employment or assignment in the United States, and that their personnel possess financial resources sufficient to cover the costs of obtaining necessary healthcare services in the United States.

Expectation of Health Insurance Coverage

The Department wishes to re-emphasize its requirement and expectation that foreign missions offer all their employees the opportunity to enroll in adequate and affordable health insurance coverage. The Department further reminds foreign missions of its expectation that all individual foreign mission employees, to maintain basic health insurance coverage throughout the duration of their employment or assignment in the United States. Such insurance should be sufficient to cover routine health care needs, as well as treatment for accidents and illness. For foreign missions and individuals that do not already maintain adequate coverage, numerous companies offer specialized insurance plans which are designed to account for the cost of medical care in the United States; insurance brokers can provide advice on policies available to both employers and individuals, as well as their relative costs and benefits. Individuals who are unable to secure other coverage may also be eligible to purchase insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace; further information may be found at www.healthcare.gov.

Financial Responsibility

The Department reminds foreign missions that healthcare facilities in the United States are largely owned and operated by the private sector, and that patients are responsible for costs not covered by insurance. It is incumbent upon sending States to ensure that all their members have sufficient financial resources to maintain appropriate insurance coverage, and to pay for other healthcare needs while in the United States.

Annual Reporting to OFM

Effective immediately, the Department requests that all heads of foreign missions provide an annual written assurance to the Office of Foreign Missions that all members of the foreign mission and their relevant dependents have and will maintain basic health insurance coverage throughout the duration of their employment or assignment in the United States. Such assurance

for calendar year 2020 shall be provided no later than December 31, 2020, and on an annual basis thereafter. Assurances may be sent electronically to OFM-Info@state.gov or by mail to:

2201 C Street, NW Room 2236
Washington, DC 20520

Questions concerning the above matters should be transmitted to OFM by electronic mail at OFM-Info@state.gov.