

# THE DIWANIYA DIGEST

The official American Citizen Services newsletter of U.S. Embassy Kuwait



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### FROM THE AMBASSADOR’S DESK

It has been one year since the COVID-19 pandemic changed how we live and work. The way we have all adapted and continue to thrive during these challenging times has made the strength of our community even more evident. I have been impressed by the stories of American citizens in Kuwait I have heard at virtual town halls and events, particularly those stories of people lending their support to those in need.

Our American Citizen Services Unit is here for you as well. We continue to offer appointments for passport services, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and notarials. We are also working hard to ensure you have accurate information on the COVID-19 situation in Kuwait. Check our website or contact the Embassy at [KuwaitACS@state.gov](mailto:KuwaitACS@state.gov) with questions, any time.

*Ambassador Alina Romanowski*

### Assistance for U.S. Citizens

#### U.S. Embassy Kuwait

Bayan, Block 13,  
Masjed Al-Aqsa Street,  
Kuwait City, Kuwait

- Telephone + (965) 2259-1001
- Emergency + (965) 2259-1001
- Fax + (965) 2259-1438
- Email [KuwaitACS@state.gov](mailto:KuwaitACS@state.gov)
- Website [U.S. Embassy Kuwait](http://U.S.EmbassyKuwait)

### Local Laws Apply

Please note: convictions for possession, use, and trafficking of drugs may include heavy fines, long jail sentences, or the death penalty. **Do not use or sell drugs while in Kuwait.** Alcohol and pork products are also illegal. See more info [here.](#)

## WE'RE HERE FOR YOU! FAQs:

*Follow our social media accounts for COVID-19 information and other services for U.S. citizens!*

### How can I receive alerts and messages from the U.S. Embassy?

Register for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at [step.state.gov](https://step.state.gov) to receive important information for U.S. citizens in Kuwait, such as changes in local COVID-19 restrictions. We also post on our social media accounts and website.

### How can I see what services are being offered at the U.S. Embassy?

We post this information on our [COVID-19 webpage](#) and update it regularly. Appointments for routine services including notariats, passports, and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBAs) are available on our website.

### How can I find updated information about COVID-19 information in Kuwait?

Visit our [COVID-19 webpage](#) to see up-to-date information about entry & exit requirements, how to find a PCR test locally, and more!

#### COVID-19 Information

[Home](#) | [News & Events](#) | [COVID-19 Information](#)



#### COVID-19 Information

Last Updated: 03/06/2021

\*\*\* Effective January 26, all airline passengers to the United States ages two years and older must provide a negative COVID-19 viral test taken within three calendar days of travel. Alternatively, travelers to the U.S. may provide documentation from a licensed health care provider of having recovered from COVID-19 in the 90 days preceding travel. Check the CDC website for additional information and [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

#### COVID-19 UPDATES

[Presidential Proclamation – Travel From Europe](#)

[Temporary Suspension of Visa Operations](#)

[Coronavirus: U.S. in Action](#)

## Where can I get tested for COVID-19 in Kuwait?

U.S citizens may obtain a COVID-19 PCR test from the below facilities:

- Al Razi Laboratory Al Shaab
- Dar Al Shifa Hospital
- Dhaman Centre
- Global Med
- Jarallah German Specialized Clinic
- The Kuwait German Laboratory
- Mazaya Clinic
- The New German Laboratory

*The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability, or reputation of, or quality of services provided by the above hospitals or clinics. Inclusion on this list is in no way an endorsement by the Department of State or the Embassy. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance.*

More details including contact numbers and general pricing information are available on [our COVID-19 page!](#)


## Where can I find information about testing requirements for U.S. travel?

Visit the [CDC Frequently Asked Questions page](#) for answers to questions such as “What kind of documentation do I need to present?”


# COVID-19: TESTING BEFORE TRAVEL

Get tested **no more than 3 days before** you travel.  
 Postpone travel if you are waiting for test results.  
 Watch for symptoms of COVID-19.

If you test **NEGATIVE**...




Keep a copy of your test results with you during travel




Take precautions to protect yourself and others from getting COVID-19


If you test **POSITIVE** or develop symptoms of COVID-19...



Do NOT travel




Immediately isolate yourself



Follow public health recommendations

If you fly to the US from a foreign country, you **must** provide a negative COVID-19 test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before boarding your flight.












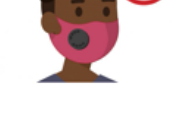


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[www.cdc.gov/covid19travel](http://www.cdc.gov/covid19travel)

## What COVID-19 precautions can I expect at the U.S. Embassy when I visit?

The health and safety of our staff and U.S. citizen customers is our priority.

- Facemasks covering your mouth and nose are required at all times.
- Our appointment schedule and waiting room have been designed to accommodate appropriate social distancing. **Appointments are required.**
- Hand sanitizer is available in the public areas of the Consular Section.

Recommended	Not Recommended
 <p>Medical procedure masks (sometimes referred to as surgical masks or disposable face masks)</p>	 <p>Masks that do not fit properly (large gaps, too loose or too tight)</p>
 <p>Masks that fit properly (snugly around the nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face)</p>	 <p>Masks made from materials that are hard to breathe through (such as plastic or leather)</p>
 <p>Masks made with breathable fabric (such as cotton)</p>	 <p>Masks made from fabric that is loosely woven or knitted, such as fabrics that let light pass through</p>
 <p>Masks made with tightly woven fabric (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source)</p>	 <p>Masks with one layer</p>
 <p>Masks with two or three layers</p>	 <p>Masks with exhalation valves or vents</p>
 <p>Masks with inner filter pockets</p>	 <p>Wearing a scarf/ski mask</p>

Visit the [CDC's webpage on Guidance for Wearing Masks](#) for other helpful tips!

## AVOIDING FINANCIAL SCAMS

*The U.S. Embassy has seen a recent uptick in reports of American victims of financial scams.*

### What should I do if I think I am the victim of a scam?

These scams can be very stressful, so remember these tips:

- Do not send money to someone you have never met.
- Know that the Government of Kuwait will contact the U.S. Embassy in the case of any U.S. citizen arrest or death.
- If a U.S. citizen has indeed been arrested, rest assured that the U.S. Embassy will visit the detainee to check on his or her welfare. *Be wary of anyone who contacts you demanding payment to release a loved one from custody.*
- Slow down, don't let yourself be rushed by the scammer, and contact us by phone or at [KuwaitACS@state.gov](mailto:KuwaitACS@state.gov) with any questions.

### Signs of a Scam



Professes love quickly. Claims to be overseas for business or military service.



Asks for money, and lures you off the dating site.



Claims to need money — for emergencies, hospital bills, or travel. Plans to visit, but can't because of an emergency.

### Where can I find more information about financial scams?

Visit [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov)'s [International Financial Scams information page](#) for information about common types of scams and tips on how to protect yourself.

## LOOKING AHEAD

*Stay in touch with the U.S. Embassy to connect with the U.S. citizen community in Kuwait!*

### Economic Impact Payments

Please visit the IRS [Economic Impact Payments website](#) for updated information.

The federal government strongly encourages federal benefit recipients to choose direct deposit. Direct deposit is the safest, cheapest, and most reliable method of receiving your benefits. For more information see our [December 21st message](#). View our [Alerts & Messages](#) for the most recent messages regarding Economic Impact Payments.

### Upcoming Outreach Event

The Embassy holds virtual town halls for Americans living in Kuwait. The next event will be April 7th for U.S. citizen teachers and school administrators!

We also recently held an event for military contractors, with another scheduled for April 12th. Contact ACS for the registration links.



### Upcoming Embassy Closures

- Eid Al-Fitr\* — May 12 & 13
- Memorial Day — May 30
- Independence Day — July 04
- Waqfat Arafat Day — July 19
- Eid Al-Adha\* — July 20, 21, 22

\*Dates for religious holidays are dependent upon the sighting of the moon and are likely to vary from the dates listed above. Mission local holidays will be determined and announced upon the decision made the Kuwaiti Government.