

## Embassy of the United States of America



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### **WARDEN MESSAGE – UPDATE ON H1N1 INFLUENZA IN MACEDONIA**

This warden message alerts U.S. citizens to the latest information regarding human cases of H1N1 influenza in Macedonia and surrounding countries. All are encouraged to take precautions to lessen the chance of becoming ill and spreading the virus.

As of November 25, 2009, the Macedonian Ministry of Health reported that since the appearance of the first case of H1N1 influenza in July 2009 in the country, the virus has been confirmed in 351 patients, with two fatalities. Macedonian health authorities advise those with flu-like symptoms to see their local physicians. Patients who show more serious symptoms of illness will be immediately taken to the Clinic for Infectious Diseases in Skopje. Although the Macedonian Ministry of Education has banned excursions for school children within and outside Macedonia until further notice, schools will remain open, and the Macedonian government is encouraging parents to keep their children in schools.

The Macedonian government has purchased 800,000 vaccine doses, which are scheduled to arrive in three shipments, but none have arrived as of late November.

There is no health screening equipment at the border crossing points, except at the Skopje airport, where there is a thermal imaging camera. This camera is in use for all arriving travelers; if they show signs of fever, they are advised to consult a physician, but are not otherwise detained or barred from entering. Fliers and brochures with information for personal protection are available at all border crossing points.

If you are quarantined or placed in isolation due to 2009-H1N1 influenza, please contact the Embassy at the number below and let us know, so we can monitor your situation. However, please be aware that the Embassy cannot demand your immediate release if you have been detained or quarantined in accordance with local public health and legal authorities.

Due to legal restrictions and a lack of sufficient resources, the Embassy 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 within our [website](#).

For more information on how to prepare for a severe pandemic, please 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. Government's federal influenza website](#), and the [World Health Organization website](#).

Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the [U.S. Embassy's website](#), and the U.S. Department of State's [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information can be found. The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review to "[A Safe Trip Abroad](#)," which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

U.S. citizens residing or traveling in Macedonia are encouraged to register with the Embassy through the [State Department's travel registration website](#), to obtain updated travel and security information. U.S. citizens without Internet access may register directly with the Embassy. Registration is important; it allows the Embassy and the State Department to assist you in an emergency.

The [U.S. Embassy](#) is located at ul. Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje. The telephone number is (389) 2-310-2000; this number may be used during and after normal business hours. The [e-mail](#) address is [ConsularSkopje@state.gov](mailto:ConsularSkopje@state.gov).