

March 17, 2020

Dear community member,

We are witnessing a rapid outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) all over the world. A national emergency has been declared across the United States. Federal, State and local authorities are issuing daily advisories, and limits have been placed on public travel and gatherings.

In these extraordinary circumstances, I strongly urge our community members to closely follow the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html</a> and World Health Organization (WHO). <a href="https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019">https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019</a>

Those of you intending to travel to Pakistan are also advised to carefully read the National Institute of Health (NIH) guidelines. <a href="https://www.nih.org.pk/novel-coranavirus-2019-ncov/">https://www.nih.org.pk/novel-coranavirus-2019-ncov/</a>

In case you or any of your family members develop symptoms, please contact your health care provider immediately. If advised to observe self-quarantine, please do so accordingly.

The Embassy and our Consulates General are operating at regular office hours to facilitate the community. Any changes will be notified accordingly, subject to local conditions. Please keep visiting our websites and follow us on Twitter for updates. The Embassy and Consulates General have designated focal points for Coronavirus related matters who can be contacted for any queries. Their names and contact details are available on our websites.

While we continue to provide regular consular services at our Consulates and here in the Embassy, I want to highlight the following:

- For visa, applicants are encouraged to apply via the E-Visa system. You can apply for an e-visa via <u>visa.nadra.gov.pk</u> and the Embassy will process your visa expeditiously. You will get your electronic visa in your email.
- For passport renewal, you may apply online on the e-Services portal of Dte. Gen. IMPASS: <u>onlinemrp.dgip.gov.pk</u> Please note that this facility is only for "renewal" of existing machine-readable passports and not if you are applying for a first-ever Pakistani passport

Once again, I urge you to stay safe and healthy by observing social distancing, limiting your outdoor movements and by following all instructions issued by the U.S. health authorities.

I am confident that together, we will be able to overcome this challenge.

r. Asad M. Khan) Ambassador

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