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Technological Systems Issue

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Visa Systems Issues

All visa-issuing embassies and consulates are now back online. We are scheduling visa interviews and issuing nonimmigrant and immigrant visas.

We issued more than 300,000 nonimmigrant visas this week. Consular staff will work this weekend, to clear our backlog, which we anticipate will be gone by early next week.

We are still experiencing problems with some online immigrant visa application forms. We are working around the clock to correct the issue.

We deeply regret the inconvenience to travelers who are waiting for visas, as well as their families and U.S. businesses that have been affected.

We continue to post updates to our website, travel.state.gov.

Q: How can you clear your backlog so quickly?

As posts have been brought back online, we have been processing pending biometric checks. As those results are obtained and automatically transferred back to posts, our overseas staff has been completing the final adjudication steps to issue the visas.

Between June 9 and June 19, 335,000 visas that ordinarily would have been printed were stuck in clearance. Of that number, nearly 300,000 have now been printed. We expect to eliminate the remaining backlog by early next week.

Between June 9 and June 19, we advised affected applicants that they could cancel and reschedule their appointments for a later time. Most applicants scheduled for interview between June 9 and 19 had submitted their applications before June 9. Their interviews went ahead as scheduled. All posts have now reopened appointments, and many have added capacity to accommodate for rescheduled applicants.

New appointments continue to be scheduled every day. Please see travel.state.gov for information on appointment wait times at specific posts.

Q: How are cases being prioritized?

We continue to facilitate urgent cases for those individuals who need to travel imminently, and will continue to do so until the systems return to full capacity.

We apologize to travelers and recognize that this has caused hardship to some individuals waiting for visas as well as families and employers.

Q: What about the foreign agricultural workers (H2A visa holders?)

More than 3,750 temporary or seasonal workers have been issued new visas in Mexico since last week.

We will continue to prioritize H-2 applicants as our systems return to normal, and will issue as many approved cases as possible. We believe that we will have issued all current pending H-2 visas by the middle of next week, and we will have additional appointments open for new H-2 visa applications.

Q: What about domestic passports?

Domestic passport operations are functioning, with some processing delays.

Q: What about overseas passports?

Overseas passport applications are being processed. There have been delays in some cases, but posts overseas are able to issue emergency passports in urgent cases.

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