

Many of us will be traveling to be with friends and family for the holiday season and the New Year. As you prepare for your travels, I wanted to update you on an [upcoming change](#) for international travel to Canada and Mexico.

**On June 1st, 2009, a new law will take effect requiring a passport to be shown when traveling *by land* into Canada or Mexico.**

Last year the Department of State began requiring passports for U.S. citizens traveling to and from Mexico and Canada *by air or by sea*. Millions of Americans filed for passports immediately after this law took effect, resulting in a tremendous backlog. The normal processing time for a new or renewed passport extended from a few weeks to – in some cases - several months. These processing delays created tremendous hardships for families that had already made travel plans, but could not leave without their passports.

### **Don't risk your travel plans in 2009**

The [current processing time](#) for a new or renewed passport is approximately three weeks, according to the Department of State's website. Although it is my hope that the Passport Agency will be ready for a flood of new applications, there may be longer processing times if many people submit passport applications at the same time. If you do not yet have a passport and think you might be traveling abroad in the coming year, it may be wise to apply now while the processing times are still short.

[Find your closest location](#) to apply for a passport. If you'll be traveling with children, keep in mind that the Department of State issues special requirements for [m](#)  
[inors traveling out of the country](#)

### **Need help?**

Please feel free to contact my district office at 408-558-8085 if you experience a problem or undue delays with the processing of your passport.

I wish you and your family safe travels this holiday season and in the coming New Year!