



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Phnom Penh (Cambodia), School Closures and EV71 Disease Outbreak

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The U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh alerts U.S. citizens to the Cambodian Ministry of Education's decision to close public schools two weeks early in advance of the summer break. U.S. citizens should also be aware of the World Health Organization's (WHO) assessment that there is a "lack of concrete evidence on the effectiveness of child-care centre and school closures in controlling hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) transmission." U.S. citizens are advised to contact individual schools for specific information regarding potential closings and other aspects of school operations. Please see the U.S. Embassy's message on July 10, 2012 for additional information about enterovirus71 (EV71) and hand, foot, and mouth disease: http://cambodia.usembassy.gov/update_on_illness.html

Other useful links on this topic include:

Centers for Disease Control (CDC):
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/enterovirus/non-polio_entero.html
<http://www.cdc.gov/hand-foot-mouth/index.html>

WHO Western Pacific Region:
http://www.wpro.who.int/publications/PUB_9789290615255/en/
<http://www.wpro.who.int/mediacentre/releases/2012/20120708/en/index.html>

The U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh encourages all U.S. citizens residing in or visiting Cambodia to notify us of their presence by enrolling in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).

The American Citizen Services Unit of the U.S. Embassy is located at #1 Street 96 (Street 51 entrance), Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and can be reached by telephone at 023-728-000 or by e-mail at ACSPnomPenh@State.gov.