

Health & Safety Travel Apps Supported by the U.S. Government

Below are details regarding a number of apps supported by the U.S. Government (USG). Most of these apps have Blackberry, Apple, and Android versions, and all can be downloaded free of charge. While all of them may not be necessary for every trip, this is a listing of some of the more useful, relevant USG apps that a traveler might need:

Department of State

- **OSAC:** Users can access Events, original OSAC Analysis, the incident reporting tool, and Crime & Safety Reports. In addition, Consular messaging, including Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts, are also available. The filtering tool offers the user the ability to customize the app to show only reporting in the region/country of your choosing.

Department of Health & Human Services: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

- **TravWell:** This app provides destination-specific vaccine recommendations, a checklist of what you need to do to prepare for travel, and a customizable healthy travel packing list. The app can store travel documents, keep records of medications and immunizations, and set reminders to get vaccine booster doses or take medicines.
- **Can I Eat This?:** This app can help prevent food and water borne illnesses while abroad. Based on the destination and a few easy questions and graphics, the app will advise whether a food or beverage is likely safe. It includes a short rationale to explain why consumables likely are or are not safe to eat.

Department of Homeland Security

- **My TSA:** This app provides real-time updates on airport delays. It includes how long security lines are at various airports; information about what you can and cannot bring onto an airplane, and a frequently-asked question list, including new advanced imaging technology.
- **Border Wait Time:** This app makes it easier for travelers to plan their trip across U.S. land borders. The app provides estimated wait times and open-lane status at land ports of entry, which may be particularly helpful when in an area with multiple crossings.

- **FEMA:** This app contains disaster safety tips, an interactive emergency kit list, emergency meeting location information, and a map with open shelters and open Disaster Recovery Centers. It also has a Disaster Reporter feature to submit GPS photo reports of disasters.
- **Disaster Mitigation Best Practices:** This app is a collection of ideas, activities/projects, and funding sources that can help reduce or prevent the impacts of disasters.
- **Mobile Passport Control:** This app expedites travelers' entry into the U.S. U.S. and Canadian citizens can submit their information to CBP via the app prior to arrival.

Department of Commerce: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

- **NOAA Now:** This app can help travelers be prepared for inclement weather conditions. It provides the latest information from NOAA on hurricanes and tropical storms in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans; mainland storms, including alerts; worldwide animated satellite views; and the ultraviolet index.
- **Tsunami Alert:** This app, also produced by NOAA, sends alerts for the US, Canada, and all countries along the Pacific Ocean, India Ocean, and Caribbean Sea for tsunami warnings, watches, and advisories.

Other Considerations

- In addition to apps, many of these resources can also be found on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and other social media platforms.
- There are some countries that have very strict, and often monitored, Internet usage, making apps—even ones internal to an organization—a potential security vulnerability.
- Other locations may not have a developed telecommunications infrastructure or may be too remote to permit mobile app.