A revised Executive Order “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” was signed on Monday, March 6, 2017.

The new Executive Order’s effective date is March 16, 2017 and extends for a 90 day period, to individuals from 6 countries - Sudan, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen - who are outside the United States and do not have a valid visa, are not eligible to travel to the United States.

The prior travel ban order is revoked. Notably, the revised Travel Ban:

- Does not include Iraq, though decisions to grant visas or admission may be subject to additional scrutiny.
- Does not apply to legal permanent residents or U.S. citizens.
- Does not apply to individuals with dual citizenship between an impact and non-impacted country. US citizenship as a dual citizen is not required. Example: UMass individual with dual UK and Iranian citizenship should not be affected and should be able to obtain a valid visa to re-enter the U.S.
- Does not apply to non-citizens or legal permanent residents with valid visa stamp in passport issued on or before March 15, 2017; these non-immigrant visa holders should be able to reenter the US once the travel ban takes effect. However, it is unclear whether the EO will impact ability to obtain visa renewals, thus potentially impacting future travel depending on visa expiration.
- Immediate suspension of the Visa Interview Waiver Program worldwide and not limited to 90 days. This program allows individuals with a current visa to “waive” consular interviews as part of the visa renewal process.
- There are “exceptions” and “waivers” to certain provisions requiring separate review. It is unclear who will qualify for these exceptions or waivers, since they are at the discretion of Dept. of State Consular officers.

Immediate impact on the UMMS community:

- Travel for those affected by the new travel ban should be postponed until the 90 day ban has expired, or more information is available. Please see the Department of Homeland Security Q&A for specific detail on who is affected by this new EO.
- As of March 16, 2017 all applications for visa renewal will require a consular interview, meaning delays in: 1) scheduling the visa appointment and 2) obtaining the visa stamp for all applicants. Visa delays worldwide should be expected for new and renewals for the UMass international community. Immediate impact will be likely be particularly noticeable for international student, scholars and employees seeking a visa in India and China where long visa delays are already an issue during the high consular processing summer months.

On a separate but related note: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued notification on Friday that premium processing for all H1B petitions will be temporarily suspended, effective April
3, 2017. This will impact certain new hires whom are currently not sponsored in H1B with another employer, who require a change of status to H1B in order to continue working, or who need an H1B extension and has plans to travel abroad.


General recommendations regarding travel for the six affected countries:

- **For citizens of one of the six countries and here on a nonimmigrant visa**, travel is not recommended. Contact ISO before any travel outside of the U.S.

- **For dual citizens of one of the six countries and another country** (e.g. Canada, U.K), travel is allowable under the new Executive Order, however you should anticipate possible delays upon re-entry to the U.S.

- **For U.S. Permanent Residents and U.S. citizens born in one of the six 217(a)(12) countries**, travel is also allowable under the new Executive Order, however you should anticipate possible delays upon re-entry to the U.S.