

Transit through the USA for people living with HIV/AIDS – New Information

The US Department of State has granted a blanket waiver for people living with HIV/AIDS to transit through the USA to attend the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City. The blanket waiver is effective only from 30 July through 10 August 2008.

The blanket waiver can be obtained by submitting a visa application at your nearest US consular office. The visa will be issued on a separate form to avoid a permanent record in the applicant's passport. However, disclosure of HIV status is part of the visa application process to obtain the waiver.

All HIV-positive travelers need to be aware of the potential impact upon future travel into the USA, associated with declaring your HIV status to immigration officials when applying for the blanket waiver.

Further information, prepared by Gay Men's Health Crisis for the 2008 High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS (6-12 June 2008) is available at: http://www.gmhc.org/programs/legal/immig_meeting08.pdf.

If you have concerns, you may wish to consider arranging your travel to Mexico by a route that does not necessitate transit through the USA, if that is an option.