

U.S. Embassy Moscow health alert: suspected pneumonic plague reported in Irkutsk, Russia

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<https://noticenearby.com/notices/nn-travelgov-russia-irkutsk-2026-10-06>

On October 6, 2026, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow issued a health alert for Irkutsk, Russia. The Embassy said it is aware of press reports from the Irkutsk region of suspected pneumonic plague resulting in the death of an individual and of associated quarantine measures in, and closures of, hospitals in Irkutsk. The Embassy said it continues to track the situation closely.

The same day, @TravelGov posted the alert on X and linked the Embassy page. The post restates that Russia's Level 4 Do Not Travel advisory remains in effect, that U.S. citizens currently in Russia should depart immediately, and that the U.S. government has limited ability to help U.S. citizens in Russia, especially outside Moscow.

This Notice Nearby paper records the Embassy alert and the TravelGov notice for readers who need the official clocks, the actions to take, and the source links in one place. It is not medical advice and not a substitute for CDC or Embassy guidance.

What the Embassy reported

Location named: Irkutsk, Russia.

Event: press reports of suspected pneumonic plague; one death reported in those accounts; quarantine measures and hospital closures in Irkutsk.

The Embassy stated that the U.S. government has limited ability to help U.S. citizens in Russia, especially outside Moscow, and that U.S. government personnel may face additional restrictions for personal and official travel to specific regions because of health and security concerns.

Travel advisory status

The State Department's Level 4 Travel Advisory (Do Not Travel) for Russia remains in place. The advisory states that U.S. citizens currently in Russia should depart immediately.

U.S. citizens planning travel to Russia are again strongly advised not to travel to Russia because of the risk of wrongful detention and other security concerns, in addition to this health alert.

Actions to take (from the Embassy alert)

Follow the guidance of local health authorities. Avoid affected facilities. Seek medical care promptly if you develop fever or respiratory symptoms.

Review the CDC page on plague and the CDC Travelers' Health page for Russia for disease and country-specific health updates.

Monitor your health for 14 days after travel if you were in an area experiencing the outbreak.

Review the Embassy country page for general health information and the Embassy list of medical providers. Check travel insurance for medical evacuation options. Have a plan to depart in an emergency that does not depend on U.S. government help.

Monitor local media. Be prepared to adjust plans. Enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) for health and security updates.

Assistance contacts (from the Embassy alert)

U.S. Embassy Moscow: +7 495 728-5577 - MoscowACS@state.gov - Embassy web page on ru.usembassy.gov.

State Department - Consular Affairs: 1-888-407-4747 or +1-202-501-4444.

If an official Embassy or Travel.State.Gov page and this paper disagree, the official page wins.