

Ter info zodat jullie weten dat dit speelt; ik heb aangegeven dat wij hier niets in kunnen betekenen en voor nadere info naar 5.1.2e 5.1.2e verwezen. Groet, 5 1 2e Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties Representation of The Netherlands in Aruba, Curação and Sint Maarten Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations L.G. Smithboulevard 44 | Oranjestad | Aruba M @minbzk.nl < 5.1.2e Van: @state.gov> Verzonden: maandag 1 maart 2021 13:09 Aan: 5.1.2e , 5.1.2e < @minbzk.nl> CC: 5.1.2e , 5.1.2e < 5.1.2e @minbuza.nl> Onderwerp: FW: Safety of U.S. Preclearance Personnel Dear 5.1.2e Thanks again for meeting with 5.1.2e and me when we were in Aruba in January. I wanted you to be aware that I'm asking the Government there to look at the possibility of prioritizing CBP for the vaccine. On February 9, the DBB office there mentioned to me the possibility of some assistance to CBP, and they spoke with CBP to follow up on February 10. Since then however, no action has not been forthcoming. If we have more personnel getting sick there, I would recommend to Washington that the Preclearance program in Aruba be reduced or curtailed until a resolution of the vaccine problem can be found. Please let me know if you need more information. Mobile: Consul General and Chief of Mission to the Dutch Caribbean U.S. Consulate General Curação J.B. Gorsiraweg 1 | Willemstad Ex. 5.1.2e From: Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 12:44 PM To: 5.1.2e < 5.1.2e < <u>@gobierno.aw</u>> Cc: 5.1.2e @arubaforeignaffairs.com; 5.1.2e @arubaforeignaffairs.com Subject: Safety of U.S. Preclearance Personnel Dear Mr. Minister

Happy Monday! I hope all's well with you. We're very pleased to see the continued progress Aruba is making in recovering from both the public health and economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

In that context I need to raise with you the important issue concerning the safety of our Preclearance personnel there and the possibility of prioritizing them in Aruba's vaccination program.

You might know that the second Preclearance officer in less than one month is now unable to work due to COVID-19 – In this case a positive case in the family that results in quarantine for the entire family.

As I'm sure you know, the U.S. Center for Disease Control discourages travel at this time. While of course we want to do what we can to help Aruba's economy to recover, it's not easy to justify providing travel facilitation services at the same level that existed pre-pandemic, particularly in a place like Aruba, where the overwhelming majority of travelers are on holiday trips, under these circumstances.

The Foreign Ministry in the Netherlands has assured foreign mission members that they will be able to participate in local vaccination programs, and I understand it is possible for CBP personnel to register in Aruba to be vaccinated at an unknown future date. However Preclearance personnel of course are not performing ordinary office jobs, but by the nature of the work come in direct contact with large numbers of different people every day. It's risky. I consider it extremely fortunate that the level of infection among Preclearance personnel in Aruba has been as low as it has so far.

In other places, including the U.S. and Bermuda, where CBP also has a preclearance operation, law enforcement personnel have been given priority for vaccination, which has benefited CBP personnel in those locations. Before Aruba began its vaccination program, the Government of Aruba discussed the possibility of helping out with CBP or airport personnel in general with some form of prioritization. But so far we have not seen any specific action in this direction.

To be clear, after all the efforts you and the people of Aruba have made to return to the level of normal activity we see today, I would not want to pull back or restrict services to the public or the air carriers now serving Aruba so effectively. But at the same time I consider myself responsible for the safety of all our U.S. Mission personnel.

Many thanks for your attention to this matter.

Allen

5.1.2e

Consul General and Chief of Mission to the Dutch Caribbean

U.S. Consulate General Curação

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