

## Regional Government of the Azores explained

The Azores' archipelago, which is comprised by nine islands, has been an autonomous region since 1976 with its own government and parliament. The region gained this statute in the aftermath of the 1974 military coup that restored democracy to Portugal.

This means the Azores is still part of the Portuguese territory but has autonomy in many areas, creating its own legislation.

The Azores' political system is formed by the regional parliament and a regional government.

The parliament is located in the city of Horta, on the Island of Faial, while the government has its headquarters in Ponta Delgada, on the island of Sao Miguel, and other departments on the

islands of Terceira and Faial.

The government is formed by a president, eight regional secretaries and 13 regional directors who are responsible for areas such as finance, education, health, public administration, farming, fishing, industry, tourism, housing, environment, social welfare and public works.

The city of Angra is home to the Departments of Education, Health, Social Welfare and Public Administration.

The regional government can legislate independently from the central government in Lisbon, but still needs to comply with national laws, especially in the areas of finance, justice and public administration.

Currently, the regional parliament is formed by

the Speaker of the House and 52 representatives: 30 from the Socialist Party; 18 from the Social Democrat party; two from the CDS People's Party and two from the Communist Party.

The city of Angra is also home to the Office of the Minister of the Republic for the Azores. The minister is the Portuguese government's representative to the region and represents the national sovereignty besides being the liaison between the regional and the republic's government. He oversees the regional government's actions and has the power to veto regional legislation that is not in accordance with the Portuguese Constitution.

The Azores will hold legislative elections on Oct. 17 of this year, which will elect new parliament



representatives. A new regional government will also be formed based on the results of the election. Both the parliament and government will serve a four-year term unless there's a need to call for early elections.

## *An ounce of prevention keeps the germs away*

### 65th Medical Group public health element

September is National Food Safety Month. According to the Public Health office a helpful way to ensure that the food you prepare and eat is as safe as possible is to wash your hands often.

This will also help to eliminate the chance of your friends and family becoming sick from harmful organisms that may contaminate your food.

Hands should be washed often.

No one can see germs with the naked eye or smell them, so you do not really know where they are hiding.

#### It's important to wash your hands:

- Before, during and after you prepare food
- Before you eat
- After you use the bathroom
- After handling animals or animal waste
- Anytime your hands are dirty
- Anytime someone in your home or dorm is sick

#### The correct way to wash your hands is to:

- Wet hands and apply liquid or a clean bar of soap
- Rub hands vigorously together for 10-15 seconds and scrub all surfaces, including nails
- Rinse well and dry hands with a clean cloth or paper towel.

