

9.19.16

Announcement Regarding the Zika Virus and Student Travel Abroad:

The University of Virginia is monitoring events related to the [outbreak of the Zika virus](#) in a number of areas throughout the world. The CDC has issued a [travel alert](#) for people traveling to regions where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. UVA students who have plans for travel to Zika affected countries should refer to the [CDC website](#) for the most recent information on Zika. Travelers who are U.S. citizens should also enroll in the U.S. Department of State's [STEP](#) travel enrollment data base and request health, safety, and security updates from the U.S. Department of State.

The Zika virus is transmitted through mosquito bites. The mosquitoes which transmit Zika bite aggressively during the daytime (but can also bite at night) and can also spread dengue and chikungunya infections. Prevent Zika by [avoiding mosquito bites](#).

About 1 in 5 people infected with the virus develop symptoms of Zika, such as fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis (red eyes), lasting several days to a week. There is currently no vaccine or medicine to treat Zika, but severe disease is uncommon. Any student who has traveled abroad and has developed fever and rash should consult with their health care provider.

CDC recommends that pregnant women in any trimester do not travel to the areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. Pregnant women or women planning to become pregnant who must travel to one of these areas should consult with their healthcare provider prior to travel and strictly follow steps to avoid mosquito bites during the trip. The Zika virus can [be transmitted sexually](#), so abstinence or barrier methods of birth control are highly recommended for people who have traveled to Zika infected areas.

UVA students who travel for University-related purposes are subject to the University of Virginia's [Policy on Student International Travel](#). Students traveling abroad for University-related purposes individually or as part of a University-organized group are required to:

- a. meet the eligibility requirements of their school of enrollment for education abroad (generally good academic and disciplinary standing);
- b. enter their travel information in the [University's Travel Registry](#);
- c. confirm that they have travel abroad health insurance;
- d. confirm that they have emergency assistance insurance;
- e. affirm that they have read, understand, and agree to the University's Conditions of Participation and Acceptance of Risk for international travel;
- f. enroll in the U.S. Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)) if a U.S. citizen; and

- g. Avoid travel to nations or regions within nations under a Travel Warning issued by either the [U.S. Department of State](#) or the [Center for Disease Control](#)(CDC) or a travel restriction issued by the University unless granted an exemption (see procedures for petitioning for an exemption in the [Policy on Student International Travel](#)).

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