



September 19, 2016

Statement on the Zika Virus and Faculty and Staff 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 regions where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. UVA faculty and staff who have plans for travel to Zika affected countries should refer to the [CDC website](#) for the most recent information on Zika.

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 faculty or staff member who has traveled abroad and has developed fever and rash should consult with his/her 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 faculty and staff may tap the resources listed below and are advised to:

- review UVA Procurement's [Travel and Expense Services](#) and [International Travel](#) web pages before they travel;
- make an appointment to visit the UVA Traveler's Clinic or their personal physician if traveling to tropical or developing areas of the world where vaccinations, medications to prevent malaria and other health measures are necessary;
- enroll in the [United Healthcare Global Assistance Program](#);
- check the CDC and U.S. Department of State's resources for travelers; and
- enroll in the STEP program if a U.S. citizen.

Resources:

[Travel and Expense Services](#) & [International Travel](#) - UVA Procurement & Supplier

Diversity Services

[UVA Traveler's Clinic](#)

[UVA-WorkMed](#)

[United Healthcare Global Assistance Program](#) – Requires enrollment; covers UVA business travel only.

[CDC Traveler's Health](#)

[U.S. Department of State Travel Resources](#)

[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) – U.S. Department of State

We will continue to follow the reports and recommendations of the CDC and the U.S. Department of State, and update the community as necessary.