



The University of Texas System
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Office of the Chancellor
601 Colorado Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2982
Phone: (512) 499-4201, Fax: (512) 499-4215

May 20, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents, The University of Texas System

Mr. James D. Spaniolo	Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.
Mr. William C. Powers, Jr.	David L. Callender, M.D.
Dr. Juliet V. García	Larry R. Kaiser, M.D.
Dr. David E. Daniel	William L. Henrich, M.D.
Dr. Diana S. Natalicio	John Mendelsohn, M.D.
Dr. Charles A. Sorber	Kirk A. Calhoun, M.D.
Dr. W. David Watts	
Dr. Ricardo Romo	
Dr. Rodney H. Mabry	

FROM: Franciso G. Cigarroa, M.D.

SUBJECT: Travel to Mexico

On Friday, May 15, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) downgraded the travel warning to Mexico to a health precaution. A copy of the CDC announcement is attached for your review.

Based on the current situation and advisories from the Centers for Disease Control, travel to Mexico may resume. The restriction on non-essential travel to Mexico that has been in place since April 26 is therefore lifted.

Although the restriction has been removed, it is critical that all travel to Mexico resume with conditional travel approvals, based on a review that considers the purpose of the trip, types of activities planned, confirmed H1N1 flu cases in the region, availability of health care, medical advisories, and recommendations from the CDC and the International SOS, and any guidance regarding isolation after return. Conditional approvals will be determined at the institutional level, given the specific circumstances of the travel involved.

In addition, any employee or student traveling internationally on university business or sponsored trips is required to enter an itinerary with the International SOS. This can be accomplished automatically when using a contracted travel agency. Instructions for employees and students using other travel agencies are also included as an attachment to this correspondence.

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The University of Texas at Brownsville
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M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
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Health Science Center at Tyler

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The International SOS is a medical and security assistance program in operation since 2005. It has proven to be an invaluable resource when needed to assist travelers in situations ranging from medical emergencies to security evacuations. There is no charge to the traveler for this service, when the traveler is on university business or sponsored travel. The current medical advisories reinforce the importance of prudent planning and ensuring that appropriate measures are taken to minimize any risks to our students and employees when abroad. Any questions related to services offered by the International SOS should be directed to Ms. Tracy Seiler 512-499-4401 or tseiler@utsystem.edu.

Your dissemination of this information to appropriate individuals within your campus organization, as well as your assistance in assuring compliance, is very much appreciated and will safeguard members of the University community traveling to Mexico. Thank you for all that you do for us.

FGC:mk

Attachments

cc: Kenneth I. Shine, M.D.
Dr. David B. Prior