

Executive Memorandum No. 25

Policy on Participation by Students and Members of the General Public in University Sponsored Travel to Countries Following Issuance of a Travel Warning by the United States Department of State or to Destinations for which a Travel Health Warning has been Issued by the Centers for Disease Control

State Department Travel Warnings

The State Department's Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management (ACS) administers the Consular Information Program, which informs the public of conditions abroad that may affect their safety and security. Country Specific Information, Travel Alerts, and Travel Warnings are vital parts of this program. **Travel Warnings** are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska that all university sponsored programs involving international travel by students and members of the general public shall be responsible for monitoring the United States Department of State website¹ to determine whether a Travel Warning has been issued for any country on the itinerary for the program. No university sponsored program of travel for students and members of the general public shall depart from the United States for a destination for which the United States Department of State has issued a Travel Warning. If a Travel Warning is issued for a country following departure, the guidance provided by the Travel Warning shall be followed by the program administrators.

CDC Travel Health Warnings

The United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issues different types of notices for international travelers. As of May 20, 2004, these definitions have been refined to make the announcements more easily understood by travelers, health-care providers, and the general public. They describe both levels of risk for the traveler and recommended preventive measures to take at each level of risk. A **Travel Health Warning** is a notification by CDC that a widespread, serious outbreak of a disease of public health concern is expanding outside the area or populations that were initially affected. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska that all university sponsored programs involving international travel by students and members of the general public shall be responsible for monitoring the CDC website² to determine whether a Travel Health Warning has been issued for any geographic destination on the itinerary for the program. No university sponsored program of travel for students and members of the general public shall depart from the United States for a destination for which the CDC has issued a Travel Health Warning. If a Travel Health Warning is issued for a designated geographic area following departure, the guidance provided by the Travel Health Warning shall be followed by the program administrators.

This policy does not apply to international travel that only involves university faculty or staff members.

Reference: April 30, 2009

¹ The current address for travel warnings and alerts: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

² The current address for CDC Travel Health Notices: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/>
Sites last accessed on April 30, 2009