

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

October 2014

Dear MSU International Travelers,

As you are likely aware, the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) has significantly affected several countries in West Africa. MSU has been closely monitoring this EVD outbreak. The outbreak has yet to be successfully controlled in Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a [Level 3 Travel Warning](#) to those three countries to avoid non-essential travel and MSU does not support any travel to those countries at this time.

Two countries, Senegal and Nigeria, have also had cases of EVD, but have been identified by the CDC as containing its spread, and MSU is not prohibiting travel to those countries at this time. However, there are no Study Abroad Programs scheduled to Senegal or Nigeria this year.

Recently, confirmed cases of EVD have been identified in the United States and in Spain. In both cases, *healthcare workers* were infected while caring for an imported case. No community spread is ongoing in the United States or Spain.

It should be noted that the Ebola virus is only spread through direct contact with bodily fluids of a person who is exhibiting symptoms, has died from EVD, or with objects contaminated with the virus (needles, medical equipment). Although the risk of Ebola infection while traveling internationally is very low, there is the greater likelihood of impact to international travelers due to enhanced surveillance and responses by government agencies that could result in disruption of a country's travel infrastructure and healthcare support systems. Such disruptions could potentially affect an individual's travel into, within, and out of a country. Also, as resources may be stretched thin where an EVD outbreak has been identified, routine and in some cases emergency healthcare for travelers may not be readily available.

The CDC recently issued guidance for universities and students that run study abroad or other education-related travel as well as host international students from West Africa (see <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/advice-for-colleges-universities-and-students-about-ebola-in-west-africa>). MSU has reviewed that guidance to align our university practices with it. For more information about EVD, please refer to the [CDC](#) or the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)).

Sincerely,



David Weismantel, M.D., M.S.
University Physician



**Office of the
University Physician**

Michigan State University
463 E. Circle Dr. Rm. 348

Olin Health Center
East Lansing, Michigan
48824-1037

Phone: 517.353-9101

Fax: 517.355-0332

e-mail: uphys@msu.edu