The UA’s Office of Global Initiatives and International Travel Safety Oversight Committee continue to monitor CDC travel alerts regarding the Zika virus in Latin America and the Caribbean.

UA travelers to areas affected by the Zika virus are not advised to change their travel plans at this time. However, they are encouraged to take extra precautions against mosquito bites when traveling.

Dr. Harry McDermott, executive director of UA Campus Health, and Laura Provencher, international risk analyst in the Office of Global Initiatives, are working in consultation with UA experts and health-care experts to keep the University’s International Travel Safety Oversight Committee, or ITSOC, apprised of travel risks associated with the Zika virus.

"The UA maintains a high standard of global situational awareness and ITSOC is closely monitoring the alert," Provencher said. "Travelers are recommended to take extra precautions in all locations with any illnesses linked to mosquito bites, but no changes to travel plans are recommended at this time."

If the current CDC travel alert escalates to a CDC travel warning, ITSOC will review UA travel to affected regions and provide recommendations regarding traveler safety to the provost for approval.

At this time, UA travelers to all countries where mosquito-borne illnesses or diseases occur should understand and plan to practice mosquito bite prevention. Common tips to avoid bites include using an EPA-approved insect repellant, covering up with long sleeves and pants, and taking extra precautions to keep mosquitoes out of hotel rooms or lodging. More information on mosquito bite prevention is available on the CDC website.

Special guidance has recently been issued by the CDC for Zika virus prevention for pregnant women or women planning to become pregnant. The CDC recommends that pregnant women or women planning to become pregnant defer travel to countries where Zika virus transmission is currently occurring if at all possible. If this pertains to you, please consult with your primary care physician or OBGYN before traveling.

Practicing effective mosquito bite prevention will provide significant protection against the diseases they carry, including malaria, dengue fever, chikungunya, West Nile virus, yellow fever and the Zika virus.

For consultations regarding upcoming international travel health requirements, you can contact the UA Campus Health Service Travel and Immunization Clinic at 520-621-2292.

For additional travel resources, including the UA Travel Registry, travel policy and export
control, visit the UA Travel Portal at http://travel.arizona.edu [11].

More information about the Zika virus and UA research and expertise on the mosquito-borne illnesses is available at https://uanews.arizona.edu/zika [12].

Source URL: https://uaatwork.arizona.edu/lqp/ua-travel-committee-monitoring-zika-alerts

Links:
[1] https://global.arizona.edu/
[12] https://uanews.arizona.edu/zika