



The University of Texas System
Nine Universities. Six Health Institutions. Unlimited Possibilities.

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March 3, 2011

MEMORANDUM

The University of Texas at Arlington
The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Texas at Brownsville
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas at El Paso
The University of Texas – Pan American
The University of Texas
of the Permian Basin
The University of Texas at San Antonio
The University of Texas at Tyler

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.
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Dr. W. David Watts
Dr. Ricardo Romo
Dr. Rodney H. Mabry

FROM: Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D. *Francisco G. Cigarroa*

SUBJECT: International Travel Risks

The University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
The University of Texas
Medical Branch at Galveston
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio
The University of Texas
M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Tyler

Ongoing unrest in the Middle East, North Africa and Mexico, as well as natural disasters around the world, continue to highlight the importance of thorough and thoughtful evaluation of the international activities of your students, faculty and staff. To mitigate risks associated with international programs and activities, we must be actively engaged in safety measures, security assessments, and emergency and incident response planning.

The University of Texas System is supportive of programs necessary to achieve increased research, global competitiveness and enhanced student success; however, as the world continues to become more complex, our responsibility to ensure the safety and security of U. T. travelers becomes more critical.

As a result of the increasing safety and security risks abroad, I issued a directive in April 2010 that institutions must:

- create an International Oversight Committee (IOC);
- suspend programs and travel to countries in which the U.S. Department of State had issued travel warnings, pending review and approval by the institutions' IOC; and
- require all students, faculty and staff traveling internationally on university business -- or on university-affiliated or sponsored trips -- be registered with International SOS prior to travel.

Presidents, The University of Texas System
March 3, 2011
Page 2

Please consider this memo as a reminder of this information and of the resources available to help facilitate them. Your IOC should consider and evaluate any university activity or travel to countries or regions in which warnings or alerts have been issued by the State Department, or where significant health or safety concerns are present.

Warnings or alerts from the State Department do not necessarily reflect the most up-to-date situations in any country. International SOS is available at any time to discuss current security and health concerns for any country, region or city where U. T. System faculty, staff and students may travel. These consultations already are part of the services offered under our current agreement and I encourage your travelers to take advantage of them.

The safety of our faculty, staff and students is of utmost concern to me and to our Board of Regents. I appreciate your continued support in ensuring these programs and procedures are implemented at your institutions.

FGC:jbp

cc: Dr. Scott C. Kelley
Dr. David B. Prior
Kenneth I. Shine, M.D.
Barry Burgdorf
Phillip Dendy