UNH Statement on Travel to Ghana (September 30, 2014)

UNH’s International Travel Risk Review Committee is monitoring the Ebola situation in West Africa closely. There currently is no U.S. government or Center for Disease Control (CDC) warning against travel to Ghana. UNH’s travel assistance provider, International SOS, also has no advisories against travel to Ghana.

Although the disease has spread to multiple countries in West Africa, there is only one suspected imported case of Ebola in Ghana. The CDC states that “Ebola is a very low risk for most travelers. It is spread through direct contact with the blood or other body fluids of a sick person, so travelers can protect themselves by avoiding sick people and hospitals where patients with Ebola are being treated.”

Given the current situation in Ghana, UNH will continue to offer its planned programs in Ghana for the J-term and spring semester. If the health situation in Ghana changes, however, the International Travel Risk Review Committee will invoke the International Travel Risk Policy, which may include suspending an education abroad activity before a program starts or while it is in process.

When making travel arrangements, students should fly to Ghana transiting through U.S. or European cities and not other cities in Africa. This is prudent in case the transit country becomes impacted by Ebola and flights are interrupted.

All students studying abroad on UNH Ghana programs must follow the travel advice of the CDC and International SOS. The following recommendations are current as of September 30, 2014.

- The Center for Disease Control recommends avoiding non-essential travel (Level 3 Warning) to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.
- There are Level 2 Warnings to practice enhanced precautions for Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- To avoid the virus:
  - Stay away from sick people. Do not touch their bodily fluids or objects contaminated with their fluids.
  - Pay strict attention to hygiene. Wash your hands often. (The US CDC and WHO state waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be used as long as hands are physically clean/not visibly soiled.)
  - Do not go to funerals or touch dead bodies.
  - Do not go to hospitals treating patients with Ebola. (Call International SOS if you need medical treatment in an Ebola-affected country.)
  - Do not handle bats, even if they seem healthy.
  - Do not touch animals that are dead or appear sick
  - Thoroughly cook animal products (meat, blood) before eating.
  - People with Ebola symptoms should not engage in sexual activity. Semen can contain virus for weeks after recovery, so men who recover from Ebola should either avoid intercourse or use condoms for three months after their recovery.

Up-to-date information can be found online at:

- [https://www.internationalsos.com/ebola/](https://www.internationalsos.com/ebola/)
- [http://www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/)