

DATE: March 13, 2020

SUBJECT: EVP Update on Travel

Dear Sponsors,

This email contains important updates regarding the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation.

Yesterday, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) [announced](#) that all ECA-funded exchange program travel to, through, and/or from countries at CDC Alert Level 2 and above, or State Department Level 3 and above, are suspended for 60 days beginning March 11, 2020. As the State Department has now issued a **Global Level 3** travel advisory, this suspension applies to all countries.

Although private sector programs are not specifically governed by this suspension, ECA asks all private-sector Exchange Visitor Program sponsors to follow this guidance as they make decisions regarding exchange visitors who have not yet entered the United States. ECA also encourages sponsors to continue to follow guidance for ECA-funded programs as the situation evolves, particularly with respect to future exchange visitor recruitment (e.g., for summer or fall programs).

This approach should help to protect the health, safety, and welfare of program participants and the American public, and to avoid undermining U.S. foreign policy objectives, compromising national security, and bringing the Department or the Exchange Visitor Program into notoriety or disrepute.

ECA refers sponsors to the [CDC's guidance](#) encouraging institutes of higher education to consider postponing or canceling student foreign exchange programs and [President Trump's March 11, 2020, 30-day travel ban](#) (effective March 13, 11:59 p.m. ET) on foreign nationals traveling to the United States from 26 European countries.

ECA also encourages sponsors to provide their current exchange visitors with CDC and other official travel guidance regarding their personal travel decisions.

Sincerely,

Office of Private Sector Exchange