

DATE: March 6, 2020 (2:27 p.m.)

SUBJECT: Update on COVID-19--Additional Information

Dear Sponsors,

Please know that the health and safety of our exchange visitors are our highest priorities. Given the outbreak of COVID-19, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is providing the following information that could assist with the implementation of exchange programs worldwide.

The U.S. Department of State issues and updates Travel Advisories for countries around the world. We urge you to review details on travel advisories for all locations where you operate at travel.state.gov.

We also urge you to review details of the travel notices issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for all locations where you operate at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>.

Please be aware that some countries are imposing travel restrictions that could impact programs that have no direct connection to locations with COVID-19 cases. Please continue to review not only flights, but also travel rules for admission or transit through a country. All travelers should be prepared for travel restrictions to be put into effect with little or no advance notice. Should new rules be created during transit and participants or staff are affected, please contact ECA immediately.

ECA will continue to work closely with U.S. embassies around the world, the CDC, and EVP Sponsors, to monitor the situation and provide support to all program participants and staff.

We thank you for your efforts to make the safety and health of participants the highest priority and for all of your work. We recognize there may be concerns about how this could affect overseas recruitment and/or U.S. participation, and we will continue to monitor the situation and provide health and safety updates. If you have any questions, you can contact the appropriate ECA email address that correlates with the exchange visitor's EVP category:

AGalert@state.gov (Government Visitor, International Visitor, Research Scholar, Short-Term Scholar, Specialist, University Student, and Professor Categories)

HighSchoolExchanges@state.gov (Secondary School Student Category)

Teacher_Physician@state.gov (Teacher and Alien Physician Categories)

AuPairProgram@state.gov (Au Pair Category)

CCSponsors@state.gov (Camp Counselor Category)

InternTraineeNotify@state.gov (Intern and Trainee Categories)

SWTSponsors@state.gov (Summer Work Travel Category)

Respectfully,

Office of Private Sector Exchange

