Preparation for Global Health Experiences

The University strongly encourages all members of the University community who are contemplating travel abroad for educational or other purposes to plan well in advance and to take precautions to ensure a safe trip.

Travel preparations

All travelers should do the following as soon as possible:

1) Check your passport. Will it expire soon and need to be renewed? If you do not have a passport, apply now (there may be long waits for U.S. passports). Check the visa requirements for each country you are visiting to see if you need a visa to enter that country. Yale rates for passport and visa services are available through CIBT.

2) Make an appointment with the Travel Clinic at the Yale Health Plan, 432-0093. The Clinic provides pre-travel care including consultation, education, vaccination, travel medications, and, if necessary, referrals.

3) All Yale Medical School students should contact the Office of International Medical Student Education (OIMSE) at internal.health@yale.edu for support and guidance in travel preparation.

4) The School of Medicine provides all students traveling abroad with HIV Prophylaxis Medications at no cost to the student. Contact OIMSE at internal.health@yale.edu for further details.

5) Print out your Yale MEDEX card with information on what to do in an emergency. You can find a link to a med-ex card at http://world.yale.edu/abroad/index.html.

6) Register your Travel-Use the Emergency Contact Travel form to register your travel. You can find the form at http://world.yale.edu/abroad/index.html. The information you provide will only be used by the Office of the Secretary to reach you in the event of an emergency. Please forward your confirmation email to internal.health@yale.edu.

7) Familiarize yourself with political, health, crime, and other safety-related conditions prevailing in any country and specific locations within country that you will be visiting.

8) Contact the Medical Library to assist you in establishing e-mail and internet capability in the setting you will be working.

9) Carry a global cell phone or at least a prepaid phone card if traveling internationally.

10) Understand how your health insurance will respond while you are abroad.

- Do you have coverage for routine care?
- Are there higher copayments?
- Is there prescription coverage?
- Are there excluded activities or geographic areas?
- Obtain additional coverage if needed at http://www.insuremytrip.com/
11) Remember you are representing Yale Medical School and the University when you travel abroad. Be familiar with the University’s policies and procedures regarding conduct and travel. Upon arrival in your host country you should:

- Register with the local U.S. Embassy or consular service.
- Stay in regular contact with advisor, colleagues, and friends.

Health and safety abroad

In addition to web-based information that is provided by the U.S. State Department and various other governments, the University encourages members of the Yale community to consult MEDEX, a private travel emergency assistance provider engaged by Yale to support students, faculty, and staff who are travelling internationally. The MEDEX site provides up-to-date information about travel risks of all kinds.

What to do in an Emergency

If you encounter an emergency while traveling:

1. Where serious injury or illness has occurred, immediately seek medical treatment at the closest medical facility. If medical service is not available, contact MEDEX (call collect 1-410-453-6330).

2. Contact MEDEX (call collect 1-410-453-6330) to inform them of your emergency. MEDEX will assist, monitor and coordinate your situation until it has been resolved or you are no longer in danger.

3. Notify Yale (call Security 24/7 at 1-203-785-5555). Yale Security will notify the Office of the Secretary and, if necessary, your program.

4. For medical emergencies, notify University Health Services (1-203-432-0123) or your personal health care provider.

5. Contact the nearest U.S. Consular service or Embassy or the consulate or embassy of your country of citizenship.