Health and Safety travel alert – Zika virus.

Risk assessments are essential for UQ staff and students travelling to areas where Zika virus (ZIKV) is found. The risk of ZIKV and other mosquito-borne diseases, should be considered and included in risk assessments completed for work to be undertaken off-shore. Currently there are a number of nations in the Caribbean, Central America, South America, Africa and the Pacific Islands where Zika is known to be transmitted. The complete list is found at the Australian government smartraveller Zika Virus Bulletin.

While illness from Zika is usually not severe and does not require hospitalization, there are serious concerns of severe outcomes for unborn babies. Women who are pregnant or seeking to become pregnant should reconsider their travel plans to areas where Zika is known to be transmitted. There is no vaccine for Zika. Prevention relies on avoiding mosquito bites in areas where Zika occurs.

The WHO yesterday announced a public health emergency of international concern regarding Zika virus disease, in which additional precautionary measures for travellers to areas with Zika virus transmission to:

- Obtain up-to-date advice on potential risk
- Continue diligent application of appropriate personal protective measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to mosquito bites.


Campus travel has also sent out an advisory to all UQ travellers.

Travel advice and preventive measures can be found at the following links:
- [Department of Health (Australian Government)]


Regards, Jim