



## WTTTC Statement on the Zika Virus

February 2, 2016

Following the World Health Organisation (W.H.O.) announcement on 1 February 2016 that the Zika virus calls for a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTTC) would like to emphasise that the W.H.O. has not called for any travel and trade restrictions with destinations where the Zika virus is active.

WTTTC advises travellers to follow the health and travel advisories issued by the authorities and to take appropriate precautions to avoid getting bitten by the Aedes mosquito when travelling to places with a high-risk of infection. These are normal anti mosquito protection procedures, using insect repellent, avoiding places with standing water and covering up where possible.

The W.H.O. declaration requires an international response, to attack the problem at source, to minimize the threat in infected countries and to reduce risk of international spread. Governments must ensure that they communicate clearly on the development of the Zika virus in their countries and on the preventative measures necessary to stop people from getting infected.

It is too early to comment on the impact of the Zika virus on the Travel & Tourism sector. Tourism boards, health organisations and companies across the sector are working together on formulating an appropriate response in every country impacted. Most airlines, cruise lines and tour operators from originating countries are being flexible, by offering alternative plans or refunds to pregnant women and their families who prefer not to travel to affected areas at this time.

Read more at: <http://www.wttc.org/press-room/press-statements/2016/wttc-statement-on-the-zika-virus/>

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