

Current UNSW Travel Advisories

18 April 2008

- Currently there are no new travel restrictions on UNSW staff and students traveling on corporate business or research. UNSW staff are not permitted to work/study/research in declared war zones.
- Current restricted locations, where UNSW staff and students are not permitted to travel include: Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Comoros, Central African Republic, Western Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Iraq, Burma/Thai border area, The Gaza Strip, Northern Lebanon (Tripoli),
- For more information about these locations please refer to the DFAT website at: <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/do-not.html>

Travel approval from the Risk Management Unit is required for travel to the following countries:

- Indonesia : UNSW staff is advised DFAT has asked all travelers to reconsider their need to travel to this country, due to possible terrorist attacks. UNSW recommends that travel be deferred to this region at this time, however, we require all staff and students to consult with the Risk Management Unit prior to traveling to this region.
- The Middle East - The Risk Management Unit asks that you contact our office prior to traveling to this region. Contact: h.rosenthal@unsw.edu.au
- Columbia – The Risk Management Unit asks that you contact our office prior to traveling to this country. Contact: h.rosenthal@unsw.edu.au
- East Timor – The Risk Management Unit asks that you contact our office prior to traveling to this country. Contact: h.rosenthal@unsw.edu.au
- Sri Lanka – The Risk Management Unit asks that you contact our office prior to traveling to this country. Contact: h.rosenthal@unsw.edu.au
- Burma - The Risk Management Unit asks that you contact our office prior to traveling to this country. Contact: h.rosenthal@unsw.edu.au
- Pakistan - The Risk Management Unit asks that you contact our office prior to traveling to this country. Contact: h.rosenthal@unsw.edu.au
- Zimbabwe - The Risk Management Unit asks that you contact our office prior to traveling to this country. Contact: h.rosenthal@unsw.edu.au

RISK ASSESSMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL TO THESE AREAS

Avian Flu

Currently the number of human deaths from avian flu have remained relatively small, and confined to a limited number of countries, including: Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Laos, Nigeria, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. To date, there have been 381 cases of avian flu reported to the WHO since 2003, with 240 cases resulting in fatalities.

Countries with the most active cases in 2007 are: Indonesia (132 cases), Viet Nam (106 cases) and Egypt (50 cases).

The most current information regarding Avian Flu can be found at:

<http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/TravelBulletins/Health : Avian Influenza#Summary>

Reducing the risk of infection

People are at risk of contracting avian influenza if they have **close contact with infected birds, their faeces or other body fluids.** The virus does not spread easily from birds to people. There is a very low risk of contracting the disease from occasional contact with an infected bird such as when travelling on public transport.

Australians travelling to areas affected by avian influenza can reduce their risk of infection by:

- avoiding situations where they may come into contact with farms and live bird markets;
- ensuring all uncooked poultry and eggs are handled hygienically with careful attention to hand washing after handling and then cooked thoroughly (proper cooking destroys the virus in poultry and eggs); and
- washing hands thoroughly after contact with infected or potentially infected birds, their faeces or other body fluids.

In affected areas, you should avoid contact with cats and their faeces as there is some evidence that these animals can be infected with H5N1.

The United States government is advising its citizens in Indonesia to avoid wild and stray cats. This follows the reporting of an Indonesian survey which found some cats located near outbreak areas showed evidence of past H5N1 infection.

Further information about the current status of Avian Flu can be found at:

- The World Health Organisation website: <http://www.who.int/en/>
- The Australian Government Department of Health and Aging website: http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/content/health-avian_influenza-index.htm