



Emergency Message to U.S. Citizens: Guatemala, Outbreak Of Dengue Hemorrhagic (DHF)

Travel Health and Safety; Employee Health Safety

Western Hemisphere > Guatemala

7/24/2012

This message is being issued to alert U.S. citizens residing and traveling in Guatemala to recent cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF). Recent heavy rains have created ideal conditions for the breeding of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which transmit the dengue virus.

Aedes mosquitoes typically live indoors and are often found in dark, cool places such as in closets, under beds, behind curtains, and in bathrooms.

The U.S. Embassy recommends that the following precautions be taken: Travelers are advised to use appropriate insecticides to get rid of mosquitoes and to select accommodations with well-screened windows or air conditioning when possible. Long-term travelers and expatriates can take extra precautions to reduce mosquito-breeding sites around their accommodations by emptying and cleaning or covering any standing water (such as in water storage tanks and flowerpot trays).

The U.S. Embassy will continue to monitor this situation and will issue updated messages. For further information about dengue hemorrhagic fever, please consult the United States Centers for Disease Control website at

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2012/chapter-3-infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/dengue-fever-and-dengue-hemorrhagic-fever.htm> or the World Health Organization website at <http://www.who.int/topics/dengue/en/>.

Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the U.S. Embassy's website, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs' website www.travel.state.gov, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information can be found. The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review "A Safe Trip Abroad," found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html, which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.



The U.S. Embassy in Guatemala is located at Avenida Reforma 7-01, Zone 10, Guatemala City. Please contact the American Citizen Services Unit by email to amcitsguatemala@state.gov, by phone at 011-(502)2326-4501, or by fax at (502)2331-3804. The after-hours emergency number is 011-502-2331-2354 or (502)2331-2354