



Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), Zika Virus

Disease Outbreak; Travel Health and Safety

East Asia & Pacific > Papua New Guinea; East Asia & Pacific > Papua New Guinea > Port Moresby

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The U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby informs U.S. citizens that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a travel notice for Papua New Guinea regarding the Zika virus. The CDC has concluded that the Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects in some fetuses and babies born to infected mothers. This conclusion was based on increasing evidence from a number of recently published studies and a careful evaluation using established scientific criteria. Zika may also be linked to Guillain-Barré syndrome, which can affect individuals of any age or sex. Zika virus is typically a mosquito-borne illness, but there have been confirmed cases of transmission through sexual contact and blood transfusion. CDC reports that travel to elevations higher than 2,000 m (6,500 ft) above sea level is considered to have minimal likelihood for mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission, even within countries reporting active transmission. CDC recommends that women who are pregnant should not travel to areas that are at elevations less than 2,000 m above sea level in countries with ongoing Zika virus transmission. For general information about Zika, please visit the CDC website. For information about CDC travel notices, call 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) from within the United States, or 1-404-639-3534 from overseas. For information on other mosquito-borne illnesses in our consular district, please visit the Country Specific Information.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Papua New Guinea to enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at travel.state.gov to receive the latest security updates. By enrolling, you make it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in case of an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate or consular agency.

The contents of this (U) presentation in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the United States Department of State, or the United States Government, except as otherwise noted (e.g., travel advisories, public statements). The presentation was compiled from various open sources and (U) embassy reporting. Please note that all OSAC products are for internal U.S. private sector security purposes only. Publishing or otherwise distributing OSAC-derived information in a manner inconsistent with this policy may result in the discontinuation of OSAC support.



Stay up-to-date by bookmarking our **Bureau of Consular Affairs website**, which contains current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Papua New Guinea and follow us on **Twitter** and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on **Facebook**. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

You can obtain updated information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby is located on Douglas Street, National Capital District and is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. , 675-321-1455 or 675-321-0289. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is 675-7200-9439.

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