**Zika Virus Warning and Guidance**

The Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) has issued travel alerts for certain countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Mexico, and Pacific Islands due to the transmission of the Zika virus, which can cause serious injury or birth defects and for which there is no vaccine. For the most current information, please see <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>.

**About Zika Virus**

 The Zika virus can be spread by mosquitos and sexual transmission. The CDC has developed specific guidance for pregnant women (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/index.html>) and recommends that pregnant women in any trimester consider postponing travel to an area where there is active Zika virus transmission. During pregnancy, the Zika virus can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly, as well as other severe fetal brain defects. There have also been other reported problems detected among fetuses and infants infected with Zika virus before birth, such as eye defects, hearing loss, and impaired growth

Other than pregnancy complications, symptoms are generally mild. The most common symptoms are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week. The CDC is also investigating the link between the Zika virus and Guillain-Barré Syndrome, which is a sickness of the nervous system in which a person’s own immune system damages the nerve cells, causing muscle weakness and sometimes, paralysis.

**Prevention and Treatment**

The CDC has provided guidance for precautions and mentions to prevent the spread of Zika, found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/index.html>. There is currently no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Zika.

**General Travel Guidance**

There are a number of resources on the Zika virus, including from The World Health Organization (“WHO”): <http://www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus/en/>, the CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>, and the National Institutes of Health (“NIH”): <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/zika/Pages/default.aspx>. Information regarding travel information and countries affected can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>. As this situation is still developing, it is important to continually check these resources for updates and changes.