

Influenza A/H1N1 Update

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN MEXICO:

- On Friday May 15, 2009, the CDC removed its Travel Health Warning against all nonessential travel to Mexico; downgrading to a "travel health precaution."
- As a result of the CDC's announcement, the U.S. Department of State announced that its travel alert to Mexico, due to the H1N1 Influenza outbreak, was no longer in effect.
- On May 18, Canada also lifted its travel advisory to Mexico.
- Carnival Cruise Lines and Royal Caribbean have announced they will resume their visits to Mexico ports later this month.
- Mexico's beach resorts of Costa Maya, Puerto Vallarta, Los Cabos, Cozumel, Mazatlan and Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo continue to report no cases of Influenza A (H1N1).
- As of 06:00 GMT, May 20, 2009, 41 countries have officially reported 10,243 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection. The United States leads with 5,469 cases followed by Mexico with 3,648 laboratory confirmed human cases of infection.



WHAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS DOING:

- ✓ Mexico's Minister of Tourism, Rodolfo Elizondo, retains that Mexico's main priority continues to be the safety of its citizens and visitors; Mexico is ready to welcome back all of its visitors and offer them the hospitality and services that have always distinguished us.
- ✓ Mexico's Minister of Health, Jose Angel Cordova, was present at the 62nd Annual World Health Assembly to report on Mexico's declining status of cases with Influenza and presented the WHO with a letter in which the Mexican Government places any and all Influenza related information at their disposition in hopes of assisting in the development of a vaccine.
- ✓ According to Mexico Tourism Board CEO, Oscar Fitch, Mexico's travel industry -at all levels- is ready to offer its visitors what they go there for: diversity, culture, relaxation, luxury, adventure, world class infrastructure and most importantly, the best service in the world .



WHAT THE WORLD IS SAYING ABOUT MEXICO AND THE H1N1:

- ✓ The Governments of Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay, Italy, Austria, Belgium, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Canada have decided to lift their travel advisories against travel to Mexico, resuming all commercial flights to Mexico.
- ✓ WHO Director-General, Margaret Chan, sustains that the WHO continues to support and hold great respect towards the Mexican government for its response and preventive measures taken after being faced with such a large responsibility as was the Influenza outbreak.
- ✓ According to Carnival Cruise lines spokeswoman, Jennifer de la Cruz, "A majority of our Passengers wanted to see us return to Mexico and so we have."
- ✓ The Cruise Line International Association (CLIA) applauds the CDC's decision to lift its travel warning to Mexico, stating this is very good news for Mexico and its port communities as well as for Americans planning to travel to Mexico.
- ✓ Apple Vacations has reported that Mexico sales are rebounding and with the help of its "Biggest-Ever Mexico Sale" program, bookings will gain better momentum as they have even extended their offer through the end of the month due to the great response.

FOR MORE INFORMATION WHILE IN MEXICO:



- Contact your Embassy or Consular Office in the destination where you are located.
- Tourism information and assistance: in the U.S 1-800-44-MEXICO, in Europe 00-800-1111-2266, and in Mexico 078
- Ministry of Health call center in Mexico 01-800-123-1010
- Visit the mexico-update page through www.visitmexico.com or directly at www.mexico-update.com
- Updates and complete information about Influenza A/H1N1 from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention are available at: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu
- For health questions and concerns visit www.who.int

MEXICO UPDATE

You should know

MEXICO: POST TRAVEL ALERT

- Japan and Germany join the governments of Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay, Italy, Austria, Belgium, United Kingdom, Switzerland, United States and Canada in lifting its travel advisories against travel to Mexico.
- The Scientific Committee on Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance of the México City Government (GDF) decided to downgrade the alert from yellow to green.
- Mexico City Mayor, Marcelo Ebrard, presents their new promotional campaign, "Mexico City Full of Life."
- On Tuesday May 19th, Acapulco welcomed Royal Princess, the first cruise liner to arrive in Mexico after the Travel Alerts regarding the A H1N1 outbreak were lifted.
- Administrators at the University of Michigan ended the suspension of university-sponsored travel to Mexico, thus allowing students to participate in school-sponsored programs to Mexico.
- Airports throughout Mexico continue to follow proper preventative measures to ensure the well being of its visitors.



WHAT THE WORLD IS SAYING ABOUT MEXICO:

- ✓ China's Jin Long Firm (Golden Dragon) vice-president, Xu Ming, recently announced the company's donation of \$73,520 US dollars to Mexico's Red Cross following the Influenza outbreak; stating they consider Mexico as family and feel an obligation and responsibility in helping their family.
- ✓ On June 7th, 27 Latin American Mayors will meet in Mexico to learn about human influenza Crisis Management.
- ✓ As stated by Bruce D. Greenberg, owner of Bruce D. Greenberg, Inc., "The A H1N1 Virus is not a Mexican problem; it is a global problem...The Mexican people should be commended and congratulated by the international community for placing the health and safety of its citizens and the world first, regardless of economic impact."

TOP REASONS TO GO TO MEXICO NOW:



- ✓ "Many popular routes such as to Cancun and Mexico City now have low fares with no advance purchase requirement and are valid for travel through a 330-day period," said George Hobica, founder of Airfarewatchdog.com
- ✓ Airlines, hotels and cruise lines are continuing with the implemented hygiene programs to keep everything clean and prevent the further outbreak of the Influenza A H1N1 virus. Some are even giving out care packages to help their customers keep up hygiene standards.
- ✓ Cheap airfare is easy to find. Rates for nonstop round-trip flights from New York were as low as \$270 to Cancun and \$280 to Mexico City; and Los Angeles to Los Cabos was about \$250.
- ✓ The value of the Mexican peso versus the American dollar gives Americans the advantage with more bang for their buck with 12.85 pesos to one US dollar.
- ✓ A recent search online for Mexico City vacations turned up six-night deals in July for less than \$900 for two people, including round-trip flights and lodging.
- ✓ According to Cheapflights.com, great Mexico travel deals are everywhere; from all-inclusive packages with 40-70% discounts, Mexico is ready to welcome the summer!

INFLUENZA A H1N1 UPDATE:

- As of May 22, 2009, 42 countries officially reported 11,168 cases of Influenza infection. The United States leads with 6,552 cases, followed by Mexico with 4,008 cases.
- Mexico information can be accessed through www.visitmexico.com or directly at www.mexico-update.com
- Tourism information and assistance: in the U.S 1-800-44-MEXICO, in Europe 00-800-1111-2266, and in Mexico 078
- Updates and complete information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are available at: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu and The World Health Organization at www.who.int