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Travel and Transport is dedicated to keeping our travelers informed regarding information relating to the H1N1 flu. We will continually update this information so that you have the most accurate and timely information available.

Additional sites providing continuous information on the H1N1 Flu include:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[Business Travel Coalition \(BTC\)](#)

[National Business Travel Association](#)

Cuba – On October 9 The U.S. Department of States issued an a travel alert to remind U.S. citizens of the quarantine measures imposed by the Government of Cuba in response to the 2009-H1N1 pandemic that may affect travel to Cuba. This Travel Alert expires on January 7, 2010. In April 2009, Cuba implemented a policy that allows it to quarantine arriving passengers who exhibit fever or flu-like symptoms. Although the overall percentage of U.S. citizens being quarantined remains low, the nature of the selection process makes it almost impossible to predict when a traveler may be placed into quarantine.

ACTE Urges Temporary Behavioral Change To Reduce Potential H1N1 Influenza Impact on Meetings and Business Travel

Alexandria Va. (14 September 2009) - The Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) has today released a recommendation to its global membership (responsible for directing the activities and managing the safety of millions of business travelers worldwide), calling for the temporary suspension of a timeless tradition that is the basis of greetings and agreements in western civilization -- the handshake -- until the H1N1 influenza virus threat has been reduced to the status of the common cold. According to a statement issued by ACTE Executive Director Susan Gurley, temporarily eliminating "the handshake" from business travel may go a long way in reducing the person-to-person contact that spreads this variety of influenza.

"For years our mothers advised us to always cover our mouths and noses with a hand whenever we coughed and sneezed," said Gurley. "The public has since been told that a cough or sneeze that cannot be caught in a handkerchief should be directed into a cuff or sleeve. I find it highly unlikely that executives will risk soiling their business suits while on the way to an important business meeting, on the odd shot that they could be halting the spread of the H1N1 influenza germ. Catching the errant sneeze with one's hand is about as reflexive a motion as the sneeze itself.

“We have also been told that the best way to impede the spread of the H1N1 flu virus is to repeatedly wash our hands, especially after touching our faces, or coming into contact with someone else’s face or hand,” continued Gurley. “A random polling of ACTE members has revealed it would be easier to drop the traditional handshake, for the duration of the health crisis -- should one develop -- as opposed to sneezing or coughing into a sleeve.”

Projections regarding the impact of the H1N1 influenza are all over the board, with experts citing 30,000 to 90,000 fatalities, and the potential of 1.8 million patients overwhelming hospitals within a six week period -- in the US alone. Published reports indicate that the H1N1 flu virus could easily infect 30 to 50 percent of the US population, causing massive disruptions in schools, business, and travel, as most companies will urge employees with flu-like symptoms to stay at home.

“Considering we are facing a fragile economic recovery, it is in the best interest of the international business travel community to adopt whatever measures are necessary to keep commerce flowing,” said Gurley. “This slight behavioral change could go a long way in reducing the financial impact of a potential pandemic. While it is sad reality that influenza of any type is accompanied by fatalities, I don’t want the business travel industry to be the first one.”

Aside from a flu vaccination, which may or may not prevent an infection, Gurley recommends carrying a small two or three-ounce bottle of hand sanitizer (plus a packet of tissues) to keep one’s hands as clean as possible. “There are a number of products out there that will kill up to 99% of germs on one’s hands, that come in containers no larger than a lipstick. Just be careful how many you carry in a purse or pocket at one time as there are still limits on the amounts of liquids you can carry through airport security,” said Gurley.

While Gurley hopes the H1N1 influenza fails to materialize, she feels ACTE’s advisory to its members might cut back on the common cold this fall too.

ABOUT ACTE:

The Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) represents the global business travel industry through its international advocacy efforts, executive level educational programs, and independent industry research. ACTE's membership consists of senior travel industry executives from 82 countries representing the €463 billion business travel industry. Our members serve more than 12 million business travellers worldwide. With the support of sponsors from every major segment of the business travel industry, ACTE develops and delivers educational programs in key business centers throughout the world. ACTE has representation in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Canada, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and the United States. For more information on ACTE, please go to www.acte.org.

H1N1 Influenza

[U.S. Human Cases of H1N1 Flu Infection](#)

The outbreak of disease in people caused by the H1N1 influenza virus continues to grow in the United States and internationally. Today, CDC reports additional confirmed human infections, hospitalizations and the nation's first fatality from this outbreak. The more recent illnesses and the reported death suggest that a pattern of more severe illness associated with this virus may be emerging in the U.S. Most people will not have immunity to this new virus and, as it continues to spread, more cases, more hospitalizations and more deaths are expected in the coming days and weeks.

CDC has implemented its [emergency response](#). The agency's goals are to reduce transmission and illness severity, and provide information to help health care providers, public health officials and the public address the challenges posed by the new virus. Yesterday, CDC issued new [interim guidance](#) for clinicians on how to care for children and pregnant women who may be infected with this virus.

Young children and pregnant women are two groups of people who are at high risk of serious complications from seasonal influenza. In addition, CDC's Division of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) continues to send antiviral drugs, personal protective equipment, and respiratory protection devices to all 50 states and U.S. territories to help them respond to the outbreak. The H1N1 virus is susceptible to the prescription [antiviral drugs](#) oseltamivir and zanamivir. This is a rapidly evolving situation and CDC will provide updated guidance and new information as it becomes available.

The CDC is actively investigating human cases of H1N1 in the United States and is working closely with Canada and Mexico and with the World Health Organization (WHO).

The CDC is continuously updating [investigation information](#).

As with any infectious disease, CDC recommends that people should take [everyday preventive actions](#). Special Awareness [for concerned parents and caregivers](#).