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ZIKA VIRUS IN MEXICO:

YWAM San Diego/Baja takes all of our participant and staff safety as our first priority. We have an excellent track record of safety and take every possible threat very seriously. Along with tracking the recommendations from local and national government agencies, we have personal contacts in the World Health Organization, who give us frequent updates of any possible threats that we need to be concerned about.

We have recently been contacted by some of our participants about their concern about the spread of the Zika virus in Mexico.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE ZIKA VIRUS:

Zika virus is an emerging viral disease that is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, primarily *Aedes aegypti* that also transmits chikungunya, dengue and yellow fever. *Aedes* mosquitoes are present in all Member States of the Americas except Canada and continental Chile.

As of August 24th, 2016 this specific bug is not found in the northern Baja region where our YWAM campuses are located. (Please copy and paste link into your browser.)

REF:

http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=35106&Itemid=270

SPECIFIC CASES OF ZIKA VIRUS IN MEXICO:

The Mexican states where the Zika Virus was found are many miles away from Baja California, and have very different climates to the dry desert climate of the Baja region. Click 'Frequently Asked Questions about Zika Fever.'

REF: <http://www.who.int/csr/don/03-december-2015-zika-mexico/en/>

There is an interactive map set up by the Harvard Medical School to track the outbreak, with details of each case. As seen on this map, there have been no reported transmissions within the Baja region.

<http://www.healthmap.org/zika/#timeline>

We take every precaution possible to prevent the incubation and spread of mosquitos in our facilities. We have screens on every window, plus we have a regular scheduled pesticide spraying of every space in the facility.

Here is another helpful site specifically for Baja.

<http://www.bajainsider.com/article/zika-virus-mexico>