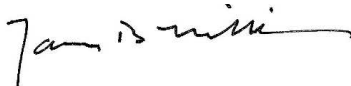




March 7, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents, The University of Texas System

FROM: James B. Milliken 

SUBJECT: Travel Developments Related to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

It is likely that you are fielding numerous inquiries about impacts of the recent events in Ukraine to your medical, academic, and research missions, and travel especially. Continually escalating international tensions, significant airspace restrictions in and out of the region, and severe sanctions imposed against Russia and Belarus are adding further complications to an already volatile situation.

We are aware of only a few travelers in Russia. On March 5, the U.S. State Department updated Russia's Travel Advisory to say that "U.S. citizens should depart Russia immediately." Additionally, the UT System medical and security assistance provider, On Call International, triggered security evacuation coverage in Russia effective February 27, 2022. That started a 30-day clock for determining whether or not an institution intends to evacuate a traveler. After this window, there will be no security evacuation coverage remaining for travelers in Russia. At the same time, logistical obstacles for evacuation in Russia and nearby countries are increasing due to significant airspace restrictions and numerous flight cancellations. It is unlikely that flights with reputable commercial carriers will remain available during the 30-day window.

Regionally, there are broader concerns. There is a credible risk of spillover violence or escalation in countries bordering Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus. More immediately, impacts related to travel disruption, infrastructure, protests, supply chain disruption, cyber threats, and general service availability are already occurring. There is also a significant strain on resources in countries bordering Ukraine because of the mass influx of more than a million refugees.

I am confident that your International Oversight Committees (IOCs) are already taking prudent steps to address these concerns and restrict travel to affected areas. Given the circumstances, I must request additional requirements to ensure a consistent approach to any essential travel to these countries.

Travel to Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus is suspended until further notice. If your institution determines there is a mission critical business or research need that warrants an exception to the suspension, the following is now required:

1. Travel must be approved (or reapproved) by the IOC, as well as the President. If an exception is granted, the president must provide notice to the Executive Vice Chancellor (EVC) for Health Affairs or Academic Affairs as appropriate, and the Chief Compliance and Risk Officer.
2. Your Export Control subject matter expert and your Office of Legal Affairs must review any proposed or ongoing travel requests to ensure that neither the institution nor the traveler violates any applicable sanctions with respect to financial transactions, nor engages with any person or entity that is sanctioned. The IOC must include the opinion of Export Control and Legal Affairs in their review.

While not suspended, travel to countries bordering Ukraine, including Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia, and former Soviet countries bordering Russia and Belarus on the Western side, specifically Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Georgia, now requires elevated approval by the President.

Any travel ongoing or already approved by the IOC should be re-reviewed to confirm appropriate controls are in place. International contacts have been receiving regular communication from Jess Miller and travelers are receiving country and city specific alerts from On Call International. It is imperative that travelers remain aware of what may be rapidly changing conditions on the ground.

The health and safety of the University of Texas community is our top priority. Thank you for your attention to these impactful events and your vigilant support of your travelers. Please contact Phil Dendy, Stacy Youngdale, or Jess Miller in the Office of Risk Management if you have questions.

JBM:bc

cc: U. T. System Executive Officers
Mr. Phillip B. Dendy
Ms. Stacy Youngdale
Ms. Jess Miller
Institutional International Risk & Safety Contacts