



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 23, 2026

To: The University of Texas System Presidents

From: John M. Zerwas, M.D., Chancellor *John M. Zerwas, M.D.*

Subject: Update to Systemwide Travel Restrictions

The safety of members of The University of Texas System community is our highest priority. I am writing to summarize and clarify current Systemwide travel restrictions.

1. Travel to Bahrain, Belarus, Gaza, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Ukraine, the UAE, the West Bank and Yemen continues to be suspended until further notice. If your institution determines there is a business or research need that warrants an exception to the suspension, the following is required:
 - a) Travel must be approved by the International Oversight Committee (IOC) and the President. This authority cannot be delegated. If an exception is to be granted, the President must provide notice to the Executive Vice Chancellor (EVC) for Health Affairs or Academic Affairs as appropriate, and the Chief Risk Officer at least two weeks prior to the trip departure date unless there are special circumstances requiring less notice.
 - b) Your Export Control subject matter expert and your Office of Legal Affairs must review any such travel requests to ensure that neither the institution nor the traveler violates any applicable sanctions with respect to financial transactions or engages with any sanctioned person or entity and ensure regulatory compliance to mitigate institutional risk. The IOC must reference review by Export Control and Legal Affairs in any approval documentation.
2. Ground travel through any of the designated countries, as well as any exit from the airport in one of the designated countries, must comply with the elevated approval guidelines set forth in this memorandum.



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3. Airline layovers in one of the named countries do not require elevated approval, provided the traveler does not exit the airport at any time.
4. UTS 190, International Travel Policy criteria will determine whether IOC review and approval is required for travel to any other country not listed above.

These restrictions will be reviewed again periodically to determine whether updates are warranted.

Please contact the UT System Office of Risk Management if you have questions.

cc: Executive Vice Chancellors, UT System
Daniel H. Sharphorn, Vice Chancellor and General Counsel
Melissa Villareal García, Deputy Vice Chancellor & Chief of Staff, Chancellor's Office
Phillip Dendy, Chief Risk Officer