

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

January 3, 2020

To: Deans, Directors, and Chairs

From: Teresa Sullivan, Interim Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs

Re: Escalation of Conflict in Middle East

Colleagues,

As most of you have likely heard, in anticipation of escalation of violence, the US Dept. of State has advised that all US citizens in Iraq leave the country as soon as possible. We have determined, from searching various travel data sets, that we currently have no faculty, staff, or students in either Iran or Iraq on University-sponsored business or programs. It is possible that there may be MSU faculty, staff, or students who are citizens of these two countries who travelled there to be with family over the winter break. If you know of such colleagues or students, it would be helpful if you would notify the Office of International Health and Safety so that they can reach out to these travelers to be of assistance, if needed. The contact number to reach OIHS is (517) 353-3784. This is the 24/7 triage line through DPS who will contact OIHS on behalf of a traveler. The web address for OIHS is <https://oihs.isp.msu.edu>.

OIHS is staffed by two experienced and skilled professionals who will reach out to MSU travelers in the case of security emergencies and will respond to travelers who need assistance or who have questions. But they can only do this if they know of travelers who are there. There are occasions when travelers do not register, or are travelling on personal trips, so are not required to register.

As leaders, you may also become aware of citizens of Iraq and Iran who are at MSU working or studying. They may well be under more stress because of concerns about family and friends in their homelands. I would encourage you to be sensitive and helpful in the ways in which you can. We all do better with support in tough situations.

OIHS, along with Dr. Beth Alexander, Chair of the Risk and Security Abroad Committee, and Dr. Deandra Beck, Chair of FASTR Committee, will continue to monitor the situation and will proactively review any upcoming trips to either Iran or Iraq in order to help travelers and the University make the best decisions about postponing travel, if needed, or ways of mitigating risks in various locations. Please feel free to contact ISP, OIHS, or my office if you have questions.

C: President Stanley



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