June 8, 2015 MERS-CoV in South Korea

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) is a viral respiratory illness first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012. On May 20, 2015 South Korea reported its first confirmed case of MERS, since then numerous cases have been reported. All confirmed patients acquired the illness from coming in direct or indirect contact with MERS patients primarily in hospital settings. Symptoms of MERS include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

The health and safety of our students is of the utmost importance to us and we too are monitoring the situation closely and consulting CDC, WHO, and State Department recommendations. As of June 8, 2015 they are not advising any travel restrictions, but do recommend you practice usual precautions such as:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; germs spread this way.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Be sure you are up-to-date with all of your shots and, if possible, see your healthcare provider at least 4-6 weeks prior to travel to get any additional shots.

Please reference the following resources for more information on MERS-CoV and MERS-CoV in South Korea:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/

World Health Organization
http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/mers-cov/en/

U.S. Embassy Seoul, South Korea
http://seoul.usembassy.gov/acs_american_citizen_services.html

As always, we recommend all U.S. citizens traveling abroad to enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive the latest travel updates and information.

If you find yourself in need of immediate emergency assistance you can call the KSU Police at +001-423-6666. More information regarding emergency response procedures can be found on our website here.