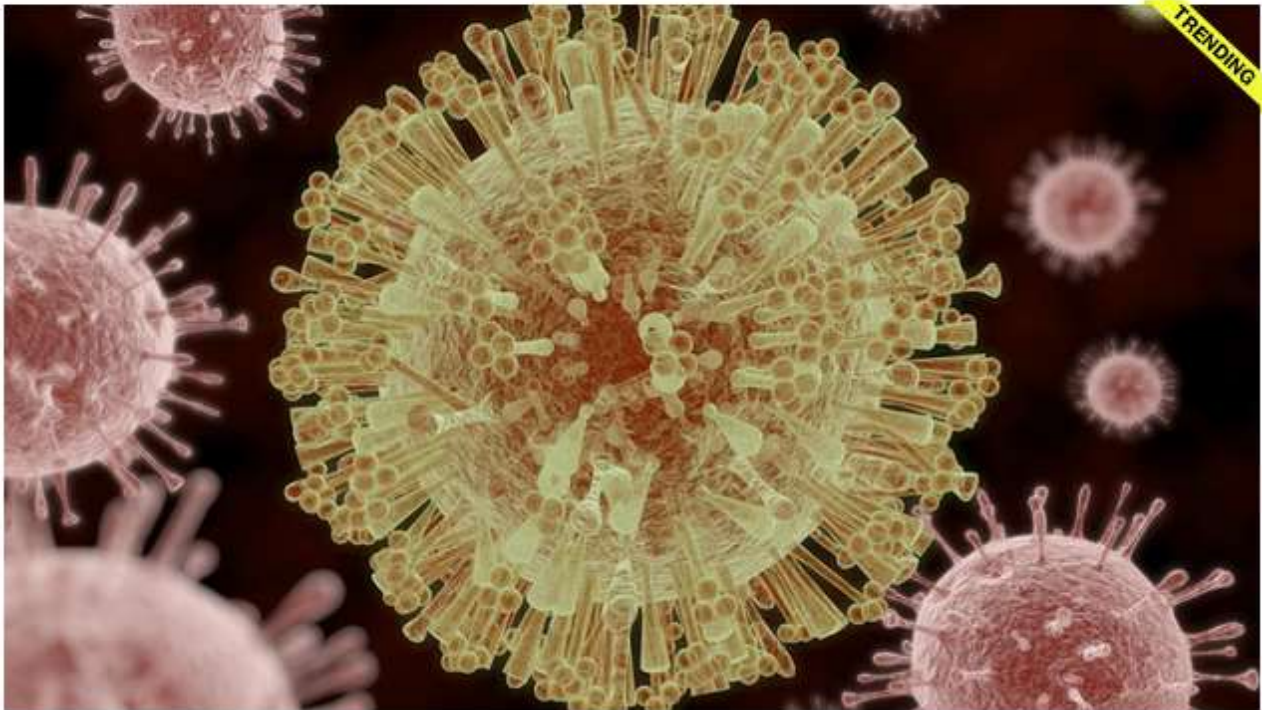


What Can Travel Leaders Tell Us About Zika Virus and Travel?

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The vast majority of travelers are going ahead with their plans to visit destinations where there have been confirmed cases of the Zika virus, according to a Travel Leaders Group survey of its members.

The special survey, conducted last week, found that just over 74 percent of the group's agents, when asked how many clients were canceling their travel due to the Zika virus, said "none" for clients in their twenties and thirties.

For clients in their forties and fifties, nearly 90 percent of agents said no cancellations, while 93 percent of agents stated no cancellations for clients 60 and older. In addition, close to 95 percent of agents said they have had no cancellations for their destination wedding clients, and just over 93 percent found no cancellations for their honeymoon clients.

The survey, conducted Feb. 3 to 5, is based on responses from 1,102 Travel Leaders Group agents, including responses from Travel Leaders Group's flagship Travel Leaders brand and Nexion, Protravel International, Results! Travel, Tzell Travel Group and Vacation.com units.

“Understanding the seriousness of the Zika virus, our agents have been providing detailed information to their clients over the course of the last few months – particularly to those who are pregnant or may be trying to start a family – so that they may make informed decisions about their travel plans,” said Ninan Chacko, Travel Leaders Group CEO.

“Even we were a bit surprised to learn just how limited the impact of the Zika virus has been on the overwhelming majority of our clients’ travel plans,” Chacko added. “The World Health Organization has been clear in stating it ‘found no public health justification for restrictions on travel or trade to prevent the spread of Zika virus’ and, armed with the facts, most travelers are opting to travel even as they heed expert advice for avoiding mosquito bites.”

Among the key survey findings are:

FOR TRAVELERS IN THEIR TWENTIES AND THIRTIES:

- Cancellations: 74.1 percent of agents stated “none” of their clients in their twenties and thirties are canceling, and not rebooking, their travel because of the Zika virus, while another 21.6 percent said that that six or fewer clients are canceling their travel plans. 11.1 percent said it was limited to one to two clients.

For clients in this age range that did cancel their travel due to Zika, 89.8 percent of the cancellations were due to a pregnancy or possible pregnancy.

- Altering Travel Plans: 78.1 percent said “none” of their clients are altering their plans and traveling to a different destination due to the Zika virus. For those few selecting alternative destinations, the top five are: the Continental U.S., Hawaii, Europe, Alaska, and Bermuda.

- Delaying Travel Plans: Asked how many clients were delaying their plans due to Zika, 83 percent of agents said, “None of my clients,” and 13.6 percent said six or fewer. 7.7 percent said it was limited to 1 to 2 clients.

FOR TRAVELERS IN THEIR FORTIES AND FIFTIES:

- Cancellations: 89.8 percent of agents stated “none” of their clients in their forties and fifties are canceling and not rebooking their plans due to Zika and 5.1 percent said one to two clients are canceling.

- Altering Travel Plans: 89.5 percent said “none” of their clients are altering their plans and traveling to a different destination due to Zika. For those choosing alternative destinations, the top five are: the Continental U.S., Hawaii, Europe, Alaska, and Canada.

- Delaying Travel Plans: 91 percent of agents said “None of my clients” are delaying their travel plans and 4.6 percent said one to two clients.

FOR TRAVELERS 60 AND OLDER:

- Cancellations: 93 percent of agents said none of their clients are canceling or not rebooking their travel due to Zika, while 4.6 percent indicated one to two clients are canceling.
- Altering Travel Plans: 92.6 percent said none of their clients in this age range are altering their plans and traveling to a different destination due to Zika. For those choosing alternative destinations, the top five are: the Continental U.S., Europe, Alaska, Hawaii, and Canada
- Delaying Travel Plans: 94.5 percent of agents said “None of my clients” and 2.8 percent said one to two clients were delaying their plans.

FOR DESTINATION WEDDINGS:

- Cancellations: 94.5 percent of agents stated none of their destination wedding clients are canceling and not rebooking their plans while 3.1 percent indicated one to two clients are canceling. For the fraction of those indicating destination wedding clients are canceling travel plans, 96.3 percent of the agents said cancellations are due to a pregnancy or possible pregnancy.
- Altering Travel Plans: 95.4 percent said none of their destination wedding clients are altering their plans and traveling to a different destination.
- Delaying Travel Plans: 96.4 percent of agents said none of their clients are delaying their plans while 2.6 percent said one to two clients.

FOR HONEYMOON TRAVEL:

- 93.3 percent of agents said none of their honeymoon clients are canceling and not rebooking their plans because of Zika. 4.2 percent indicated one to two clients are canceling. For the fraction of those indicating honeymooners are canceling, 93.1 percent said cancellations are due to a pregnancy or possible pregnancy.
- Altering Travel Plans: 90.2 percent said none of their honeymoon clients are altering their plans and traveling to a different destination. For those selecting alternative destinations, the top three are: Hawaii, the Continental U.S., and Europe.
- Delaying Travel Plans: 95.3 percent of agents said none of their clients are delaying their plans and 2.6 percent said one to two clients are.