



Ready for take-off: Preparing students for intercultural learning in Asia

Health, Safety & Risk Case Study

Excerpt from the data:

"It's not enough just to have the travel doctor come and say 'It's up to you to get your vaccinations', I think we'll be really mandating certain things [in the future]. For example, we said 'Everyone needs to have a gastro kit', whether it's one you put together yourself, that costs about 20 or 30 bucks, or you buy one which is ready made, that's 60 to 80 dollars...But we didn't check. I know on other study tours, I've said 'Right hands up who's got the gastro kit?' This time we didn't do that, we just assumed they'd do it, and they didn't do it. So again I'd be quite firm on that, on the second pre-departure workshop I would say 'I want to have a list of who has a gastro kit'. Really it's so important when you go to Asia, because you can get so sick so quickly. You know, in the middle of the night you need to take antibiotics, there's no doctor to get them to you, so that's important. We [also] had issues from mosquito bites, mosquito borne fever, really serious fever. I would again be saying to everyone 'You must use the [repellent]. This is not an option, you know, don't be an Ironman, you have to use insect repellent'." - Study Tour Leader, Indonesia Study Tour.

Scenario

Although students have been advised to have vaccinations, organise medical kits and use insect repellent while on study tour, many students take a careless approach to their health while on study tour in Indonesia. As a result, numerous students suffer unnecessarily with food poisoning, and one student ends up in hospital for five days with Typhoid as well as a mosquito-borne virus. The student misses out on a significant part of the itinerary, cannot complete all assessments and therefore loses learning opportunities. Other students also miss classes and activities due to sickness. The study tour program is seriously disrupted.

Points for discussion

1. Who is ultimately responsible for a student's health and safety?
2. What are the critical components of a health, safety and risk assessment for a study tour (particularly a study tour to Asia)?
3. In addition to a presentation by a Travel Doctor, what other ways can students be encouraged to prepare appropriately in terms of health and safety?
4. If a student is hospitalised and there is only one staff member managing the study tour, what steps should be taken to ensure the safety and well-being of the sick student?



The *Generic Preparation Guide for Staff & Students Going on Short-Term Study Tours to Asia* is brought to you by the *Ready for Take-Off: Preparing students for intercultural learning in Asia* project. To find out more about the project, you can:

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