***Infectious Diseases Associates, P.C.***

729 Grove Avenue

Suite 4

Southampton, PA 18966

**I Did Not Get that Memo**

**Cash**

Exchange rates are the best when you are in the airport. Once you arrive at your destination airport, you will be able to exchange your US Dollars for whatever currency is necessary. However, if you are traveling in the future, I would recommend following the exchange rate (at times, for political or financial reasons, the exchange rates will drop and although you will have to pay a fee to your bank, etc, it may be worth exchanging your money before you leave).

If the country you are traveling to will accept US Dollars, examine every bill that you are planning to take. Foreign countries will not accept anything less than perfect dollars, i.e. no tears (no matter how small, no writing or coloring on the bills, etc).

When you make a purchase in US Dollars, make sure you ask prior to giving them your money, whether they will give you US Dollars as change. Also, make sure that you can do the math! Always be familiar with the exchange rates, so you can determine if, in fact, they are charging you the amount you agreed to pay. This is your currency, make sure you know whether the change you are receiving is NOT counterfeit!

Bring currency in small denominations, i.e. $1, $5, 10 and $20’s. You will have a hard time changing $50 or $100 bills or using them for purchases. Although, you should be able to have them changed at the hotel.

**Credit Cards**

All credit cards are not the same!

Notify your credit card company that you are going abroad. Advise them as to every single country that you are planning to visit. Some credit cards require you to call, while for others, you can complete this step online. Please note, this still may not stop your credit card company from shutting down your card, if they suspect fraud.

If you are signing up for a tour, ask them from which country will this charge be processed. In Europe, many touring companies have their main office in the United Kingdom. If you have not listed the United Kingdom on you travel notification, there is a good chance that your credit card will be shut down.

Ask your credit card company if they will text fraud alerts to you. If they will, this will save you a lot of time as you can confirm or deny any charges that the bank thinks might be fraudulent.

Make sure that the credit card you are taking does not charge transaction fees for exchanging foreign currency. If they do, your credit card company will charge a percentage for every transaction you make while out of the country. Capital One and American Airlines Mastercard do not charge transaction fees for foreign exchanges. When you are using this card, make sure you tell the vendor/seller that you want the charge processed in their currency (this will get you the best exchange rate)!

If possible, bring more than one credit card. No matter what you see on the television, **VISA** is the preferred card when you are traveling. I recommend taking a VISA and a Mastercard (hotels, restaurants will usually take Mastercard), however, smaller stores will only take VISA.

**VAT Tax**

Once you spend a certain amount of money, you can complete a form and once you get to the airport, you can go to the VAT Refund Center and have these taxes paid refunded to you. The lines are long, so be prepared to wait. If you want to be refunded, please get to the airport several hours before your flight.