

COVID-19 Emergency Protocols for The Experiment Programs Abroad

The Experiment has implemented the following health and safety protocols for summer 2022 programs with the goal of reducing COVID-19 infection and the spread of the virus from one location to another.

To achieve this goal, The Experiment adheres to both host country entry regulations and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regulations. If host country entry regulations are more relaxed than CDC regulations, The Experiment defers to CDC regulations.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Responding to the dynamic risk horizon caused by the COVID-19 virus, and out of an abundance of caution, The Experiment continues to evaluate and amend many program elements to mitigate risk. These include:

1. Homestays

Due to the elevated health risk posed by COVID-19, homestays were suspended in most Experiment locations during the pandemic. Homestays have always been an integral part The Experiment experience, and we are optimistic that homestays will resume in more areas as vaccination rates continue to increase globally. Homestays are permitted with the following conditions:

- Key COVID-19 indicators are not at elevated levels (e.g. case numbers, vaccination rate, hospitalization, and capacity)
- Students participating in homestays are fully vaccinated.
- Students will be placed only in homestay families where all members of the household can prove that they are fully vaccinated.
- Homestay families will provide students with single rooms.

To the extent possible, in places where these conditions cannot be met or in locations where risk has increased after students have entered the homestay and the homestay is considered unsafe, The Experiment will utilize alternative accommodation such as hotels, guesthouses, apartments or other viable and safe options available in the program country.

2. International Excursions

The Experiment defines "international excursion" as a student educational trip planned and led by The Experiment outside of the host country.

Due to the elevated health risk posed by COVID-19, international excursions were suspended in most locations during the pandemic. However, with continued increases in vaccination rates globally, more countries are opening borders and easing entry requirements for international travelers.

The Experiment will resume international excursion opportunities under the following conditions:

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- Key COVID-19 indicators in the excursion country are not at elevated levels (e.g. case numbers, vaccination rate, hospitalization, and capacity).
- There are no prohibitive entry requirements for the international excursion location (e.g. borders are open, testing is readily available, and there is not a long quarantine requirement).
- There are no prohibitive movement restrictions in place within the host country (e.g. limited mobility allowed that would prevent program activities from occurring).
- Following the international excursion, students will be required to obtain a viral PCR test 3-5 days upon return to the program base country (unless students have been tested within a day of departure from the international excursion country.) The Experiment will arrange and pay for this test.

In places where these conditions cannot be met, The Experiment will replace the international excursion with in-country excursions that have similar learning outcomes.

3. Vaccinations

The Experiment requires students to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to the start of their program.

The Experiment understands that there are legitimate reasons why students may not be vaccinated against COVID-19. We provide the opportunity to petition for an exemption to our vaccination requirement on the grounds of medical reasons, sincerely held religious beliefs, or vaccine unavailability. Petitions will be reviewed by The Experiment's Risk Assessment Committee as long as they do not present undue hardship and/or pose a direct threat to the health and safety of the requesting student or to other members of our programs.

Recognizing that COVID-19 vaccines may not be available in many global locations, The Experiment strongly encourages—but is not requiring at this time—all in-country program faculty and staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The Experiment does require that all Group Leaders be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

4. Masks

The CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status. Consistent with this recommendation, and to provide maximum protection from the Delta variant and prevent possible spread to others, **The Experiment requires that all participants wear a mask in public indoor settings and anywhere else required by local laws, regulations, and guidance.**

5. Tests & Quarantine

Before Departure to Host Country

- **Unvaccinated** students must take a viral PCR test 1 – 3 days prior to departure, or in some cases prior to arrival (based on the specific requirements of the host country). Students who test negative should present the test result to airport officials. Students who test positive may not travel.
- **Vaccinated** students do not need to obtain a viral PCR test prior to departure (unless required by the host country or when The Experiment deems it necessary).

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Upon Arrival to Host Country

- **Unvaccinated** students must quarantine after arrival for 7 days with receipt of a negative test (taken between day 3-5 of quarantine) **OR** must quarantine for 10 days if no test is administered. Quarantine requires remaining in a specific room separate from other non-exposed people.
- **Vaccinated** students do not need to quarantine upon arrival (unless required by the host country or when The Experiment deems it necessary).
- **Both unvaccinated & vaccinated** students must obtain a viral PCR test 3-5 days after arrival (The Experiment will arrange and pay for this test).

6. Transportation

The Experiment supports CDC recommendations to mitigate COVID-19 risk in transportation settings, to include: a) Wear masks, maintain physical distance, avoid touching surfaces, and practice hand hygiene; b) Refrain from eating or drinking; c) With regards to the driver, maintain physical distance and request ventilation improvements as needed.

COVID RESPONSE PROTOCOL

1. Positive Test or Symptomatic

If a person tests positive and/or is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, The Experiment follows these CDC guidelines:

- Isolate.** Isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected. Isolation means staying home (in a specific room away from other people) and separating from other people. Those in isolation should monitor their symptoms, stay in touch with their health care provider, not leave home or visit public areas, and take care of themselves (e.g. rest and stay hydrated).
- Contact Trace.** An infected person can spread COVID starting 48 hours before the person has any symptoms or tests positive. By letting one's close contacts know they may have been exposed to COVID-19, they are helping to protect everyone. The CDC defines close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.
- Ending Isolation.** People who are symptomatic or test positive may be around others: a) After 10 days since symptoms first appeared, and b) After 24 hours with no fever (without using fever-reducing medications), and c) After other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving. People who are non-symptomatic and test positive—and continue to have no symptoms—can be around others after 10 days have passed since the positive test. Most people do not require testing to decide when they can be around others. However, if your healthcare provider recommends testing, they will let you know when you can resume being around others based on your test results.

2. Exposure

a. Vaccinated students who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 must be tested 3-5 days after exposure and continue to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

b. Unvaccinated students must quarantine (stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from the local health department). Quarantine may stop after day 10 without testing OR after day 7 when receiving a negative test result (the test must occur on day 5 of quarantine or later).

BEFORE TRAVEL BACK TO THE UNITED STATES.

Per U.S. Government Policy, unvaccinated and vaccinated people returning to the U.S. must get a viral PCR test no more than 1 day prior to departure (or provide documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past 3 months).

Note: If a student tests positive, The Experiment will assist the student in finding room and board and will extend travel insurance coverage during the isolation period. However, students will be responsible for the cost of room and board and other expenses associated with an extended stay (for example airline ticket change fees, local transportation, etc.) beyond the program's official end date.

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