

## COVID-19 Risk Management Protocols for Experiment Programs

The Experiment has implemented the following health and safety protocols 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) recommendations for mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Because The Experiment operates in a global context, the COVID-19 protocols listed below will serve as a minimum requirement across all Experiment programs. For example, if a host country does not have an isolation requirement, our programs will adhere to The Experiment isolation protocols. Conversely, if host country COVID protocols are stricter than The Experiment's, The Experiment will defer to host country protocols.

### PROGRAM UPDATES

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

#### I. Homestays

Homestays have always been an integral part The Experiment experience. However, due to the elevated health risk posed by COVID-19, they were suspended in most Experiment locations during the pandemic. As global vaccination rates continue to increase, homestays are allowed under the following conditions:

- Key COVID-19 indicators are not at elevated levels (e.g., case numbers, vaccination rate, hospitalization, and hospital capacity).
- COVID-19 testing, and treatment is readily available at or near the homestay in the event a participant or homestay family member gets sick, and accommodation plans allow for isolation and care of anyone who tests positive.
- In most cases, participants in homestays are placed in single rooms. However, in locations where accommodation resources are more limited and may not allow for single rooms, participants might be placed in a shared room with the standard homestay safety protocols in place.

To the extent possible, in places where these conditions cannot be met or in locations where risk has increased after participants 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 an 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, as vaccination rates continue to increase globally, most countries have reopened borders and eased entry requirements for international travelers.

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

- Key COVID-19 indicators in the excursion country are not at elevated levels (e.g., case numbers, vaccination rate, hospitalization, and hospital 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).

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

Based on evolving conditions of the pandemic including higher vaccination rates, increased protection with many individuals from previous infections, lower rates of serious illness associated with positive cases, and the removal of vaccine mandates in most Experiment locations, The Experiment will no longer require vaccination to participate on programs except for locations where host country governments require it.

While vaccination will no longer be required, The Experiment continues to encourage all participants to be up to date with their vaccinations against COVID-19 prior to their program per [CDC recommendations](#).

The Experiment continues to closely monitor COVID-19 conditions in each program location and will advise participants on any location-specific COVID-19 requirements and regulations prior to and during their program.

## 4. Masks

[The CDC recommends wearing a well-fitted mask](#) to help prevent severe illness and reduce the potential for strain on healthcare systems. The Experiment requires all participants, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask anywhere required by host country laws or in locations where The Experiment staff and partners on the ground determine it is necessary to mask based on conditions at the time.

The Experiment recognizes that COVID-19 prevalence varies from one location to another and conditions, while improved in many places, are still very fluid. The Experiment will outline the masking protocols for

each location in the location-specific risk management plans developed prior to each term and will adjust protocols at any point if local government regulations change or conditions warrant it.

## 5. Tests & Quarantine

The following testing guidelines are based on CDC recommendations.

### Before Departure to Host Country

The Experiment encourages all participants to [obtain a viral test as close to the time of departure as possible](#), but no more than 3 days prior to travel. Participants who test positive should begin isolation (see Isolation section below) and [should not travel](#) for at least 5 full days since the onset of symptoms or since testing positive if asymptomatic. After testing positive, participants can travel if:

- They have completed the isolation period of 5 full days
- Remain symptom free OR if originally symptomatic, their symptoms are improving
- Have not had a fever for at least 24 hours
- Wear a mask in all public settings, especially on any public transportation, until 10 full days since the onset of symptoms or since testing positive if asymptomatic.

### During Travel to Host Country

In accordance with [CDC recommendations for individuals during travel](#), participants should properly wear a well-fitting mask or respirator while on public transportation (such as airplanes, trains, buses, ferries) and in transportation hubs (such as airports, stations, and seaports), especially in locations that are crowded or poorly ventilated (e.g. airport jetways).

### Upon Arrival to Host Country

COVID testing of participants after arrival to the program country, as well as any international excursion locations, is no longer required. However, testing may be used in locations where health conditions warrant it at the time of travel. If testing is conducted based on The Experiment's assessment, The Experiment will arrange and fund the testing.

Please note that certain host countries may have additional testing requirements that are not detailed here, such as testing immediately upon arrival or pre-departure testing for all travelers regardless of vaccination status. In these instances, participants are expected to pay for the testing required by host countries.

## 6. Transportation

Traveling on public transportation, including planes, increases the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19 as it puts travelers in close contact with each other, often for prolonged periods of time, and exposes them to frequently touched surfaces. While the [CDC no longer requires wearing masks on public transport](#), The Experiment **strongly recommends** that participants mask while traveling to their host country and while

on any form of public transport in their host country, regardless of local masking protocols. This will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and help protect the local communities in which participants are immersed abroad.

Some Experiment programs may organize private transport, such as vans or buses, for participant groups to travel between program activities. In turn, Experiment staff and partners on the ground will determine if it is necessary for participants to mask based on local conditions at the time.

## 7. Exposure

Regardless of vaccination status or previous infection, participants who have a [known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 must](#) wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days from the “date of last close contact” (the date of last close contact is considered day 0) and should get tested at least 5 days after the date of last close contact. In turn, if participants test positive or develop COVID-19 symptoms, they should follow the recommendations in the section below.

## 8. Positive Test or Symptomatic

If a person tests positive and/or is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, The Experiment will follow [CDC guidelines](#) and any host country requirements to care for the individual and conduct appropriate contact tracing. All our program locations have capacity to treat COVID-19 patients.

## BEFORE TRAVEL BACK TO THE UNITED STATES.

While there is no longer a requirement for travelers to present a negative COVID-19 test or documentation of recovery to enter the U.S., we encourage participants who are returning to other countries to confirm the testing requirements for that country. If a participant tests positive for COVID at the end of their program and is not able to return home as planned, The Experiment will assist the participant in finding room and board and will extend iSOS insurance coverage during the participant’s isolation period. The iSOS insurance policy offers specific coverage that can assist participants with some of the housing, meal, and airfare costs associated with quarantine. Please refer to [The Experiment’s travel insurance plan benefit brochure](#) for more details.