

Luther College Center for Global Learning

Guidelines and Procedures: COVID Protocols

COVID GUIDELINES: OVERVIEW

No international travel is without risk. In a world in which the COVID-19 virus continues to wax, wane, mutate, and reappear, those risks are all the more salient. This document lays out some protocols to better prepare students and faculty to navigate this ever-changing medical landscape.

VACCINATION POLICY

Luther College's current policy on COVID vaccination is that all travelers are *strongly encouraged* to be fully vaccinated in order to travel internationally with the College. The CGL interprets "fully vaccinated" to mean that the most recent vaccine or booster was administered within 270 days of the date of return. If the situation changes dramatically, the CGL and the Off-Campus Programs Risk Assessment Committee reserve the right to make changes to this policy, with immediate effect.

The CDC has recently updated its COVID recommendations, and dropped the mandate that infected persons isolate for the first five days of their infection, masking for another five days thereafter. They now advise that people resume their normal activities 24 hours after fever and symptoms disappear.

When our students and faculty are guests in other countries, the CGL seeks to have them exercise the highest ethical standards when traveling. The CGL therefore **requires** that students and faculty follow these guidelines:

When symptoms emerge: take an over-the-counter home COVID test. If it is positive, isolate as much as possible for five days, or until symptoms disappear. If possible, faculty should arrange for infected students to have a single room (e.g. by moving a roommate out, or relocating the student to another room). If this is not possible, the infected student should mask at all times, to protect any roommates. After five days, or when symptoms subside, the student should take another COVID test. If it is negative, the student may return to normal activities. If it is positive, but the student has no symptoms, the student can resume activities, but should remain masked until they receive a negative test.

NON-BINDING TESTING ADVISORY

As guests in a foreign environment, and seeking to exercise the highest ethical standards in travel, the CGL **advises** students to take the following measures prior to, during, and after a study-away experience, to limit transmission of the COVID-19 virus:

Pre-Departure

1. **Complete a pre-travel COVID test.** Even though most locations no longer require tests for entry, we ask that students still complete a pre-travel test, as part of our ethical duty to avoid transmitting disease.
2. **If you receive a negative result →** you are safe to travel! Get ready to fly!
3. **If you test positive →**
 - a. **Report your positive result to your Luther faculty leader or outside program provider.**
 - b. **Report your positive result to the CGL.** The CGL staff will help you make decisions and possible alternative arrangements for travel.
 - c. **Isolate**, following instructions as above.

On-site

1. **If you have symptoms, or have been exposed to COVID, take a COVID test.** If you test negative, you are likely fine, but should test again after 2 days if your symptoms persist.
2. **If you test positive →**
 - a. **Report your test to your faculty leader** or program provider and the CGL.
 - b. **Contact your family members**, to let them know what is happening.
 - c. **Isolate** if possible, following the instructions above. Keep any receipts generated as a result of your isolation and/or illness.
 - i. **Academics.** Contact your instructor(s) to explain your situation and make arrangements to keep up with your work, either virtually or alone.
 - ii. **Monitoring.** If at any point you feel very unwell, immediately notify your faculty leader, who will arrange further medical treatment.

Pre-return

1. **If you are symptomatic, or have been exposed to COVID, take a COVID test.** Because the CGL sees it as our ethical responsibility to avoid unwittingly transmitting COVID during travel, we encourage all travelers to take a pre-travel COVID test, even if they are asymptomatic.
2. **If you test negative →** pack your bags for home!
3. **If you test positive:**
 - a. **Report your result** to your faculty leader/program provider and the CGL. Please contact your family members, to let them know what is happening.
 - b. **Meet with the CGL via zoom.** The CGL staff will meet with every positive student to discuss next steps. If your location does not allow for a zoom meeting, you will talk via phone.
 - c. If it is necessary to postpone travel, the CGL will help arrange suitable quarantine accommodations for you, and will ensure that food and necessities are delivered throughout.

Post-Return

If you contracted COVID and had to isolate at any point during a study-abroad program (i.e. not a domestic program), we will need to submit an insurance claim upon your return. The CGL will take care of this process for you, **but it is important that you obtain the following paperwork, and give it to the CGL staff:**

- Information regarding your illness: date of symptom onset, date of positive test, date isolation started and ended, copy of vaccine card.
- Proof of positive test (a photo of a home test is not sufficient. You must obtain medical verification of positivity)
- Receipts for any eligible expenses (housing, food, medical treatment, travel)
- Proof of non-refundable expenses (flight-change costs, deposits, etc.)

Please sign on Via-trm, to indicate your assent to the COVID Protocols outlined above, and that, as a participant in a study away program, you understand and acknowledge that:

- I am strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to departure.
- Luther College may not be able to provide academic accommodations if my program is cancelled or otherwise interrupted. I understand and acknowledge that cancellation of a study away program after the add/drop date may result in the loss of an entire semester's worth of credit, and that any academic accommodations provided by a study away Partner Program, if offered, may or may not be accepted by Luther College.
- Luther College, my study away Partner Program, or Partner University may modify or interrupt in-person teaching and move to remote or online instruction with little or no notice to respond to surges in COVID-19 infection rates or in response to local government instructions.
- Luther College may not be able to provide quarantine arrangements in the event of the cancellation or

interruption of my program. I am solely responsible for making my own accommodations should I be ordered to quarantine or self-isolate while attending my study away Partner Program, unless such arrangements are provided by my Partner Program or Partner University.

- Insurance coverage provided by Luther College or my Partner Program does not cover evacuation or other accommodations due to disruption to travel plans resulting from a pandemic. Coverage does include medical expenses resulting from the treatment of COVID-19, but may not extend to all losses for travel and accommodation expenses. I understand that I am solely responsible for these expenses.
- Luther College will not be financially liable for unrecoverable program fees, return travel costs, or other personal expenditures lost as a result of my program's cancellation.
- A study away Partner Program, Partner University, or local government entity may require me to self-quarantine upon arrival to their destination, at my own expense. The terms, costs and enforcement of such quarantine(s) is outside the purview of Luther College.
- Luther College, my study away Partner Program, Partner University, or local government entity may require me to submit to testing regimes, provide reports on body temperature readings, share travel and contact information, and submit to self-isolation and/or quarantine at any point during my program. As a guest in my host country, I am required by Luther College to follow all directives from the local or national government, and from my educational provider.
- Arrangements for continuity of care and/or treatment of any existing medical or mental health conditions are my responsibility and should be made prior to the start of my program, and should account for possible travel restrictions and/or lockdowns.
- U.S. Consular Services and American Citizen Services may be unavailable, restricted, or cancelled without notice in my program's destination.
- Cancellations and disruptions to travel arrangements, as well as local and national lockdowns, may limit or adversely impact my ability to arrive to—or depart from—my program, as well as possibly inhibit my movement within my program's country.
- It is in my best interest to plan one or more contingencies for early departure, pack accordingly, and monitor local news and reliable information sources to ensure that I am fully informed and aware of the situation in my program's location.