

Group Travel Protocol

The Office of Service Learning expects all participants going on a group travel-related programs to comply with the following:

Participant Pre-Departure Procedures

- Participants will self-monitor, track health symptoms for 14 days before their departure
- The Assistant Director of Service Learning will consult and share personal data, if necessary, with the professionals from the Vermillion Sanford Health clinic, referring to the most current CDC guidelines, as well as other credible resources
- Individuals who have COVID-19 related symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19, or have been identified as being exposed to a person with COVID-19 within 14 days before departure, will not be permitted to travel.
- Participants will obtain the necessary COVID testing, as outlined by their program and travel arrangements, 24-72 hours before departure at their own expense.

In the Event of Illness While Travelling

- Participants will self-monitor, track symptoms, and notify their program leader of any symptoms during their program.
- Program leaders will inform the AWOL Advisor, who will in turn, consult (and share personal data if necessary) with the professionals from the Vermillion Sanford Health clinic, referring to the most current CDC guidelines, as well as other credible resources.
- If an individual experiences symptoms of COVID-19, they will be required to follow local guidelines, which may include but not be limited to taking a diagnostic test from a health practitioner, isolating until symptoms subside and/or they get a negative test result, and informing local health authorities and the USD staff of all individuals they were in contact with during the period preceding their illness.
- Given strict regulations regarding COVID-19, USD employees traveling with the group may not be authorized to accompany the individual(s) to health care facilities but will seek to help the impacted individuals in every way permissible. Some local protocols dictate that individuals who suspect they have COVID-19 and require a doctor's care must be transported via ambulance and no others are allowed to accompany them in the ambulance.

Housing

- For most programs, participants will be asked to share a room with at least one other person from a group. Single room options might be available for an extra fee but will not be available for every situation.
- Should a roommate demonstrate signs of or be confirmed as having COVID-19, arrangements will be sought for the infected participants to be transferred to another room for isolation.
- Participants will be responsible for additional costs they accrue due to isolation and medical care.

Notifications

- If a program participant tests positive for COVID-19 after arrival, USD staff will inform the full group that a fellow student has tested positive, without specifying the participant's name. The group leader(s) and roommate(s) of the sick individual will be notified directly of the positive test and protocols they need to follow as a result.
- USD staff will inform the Office of Service Learning of any participant who tests positive for COVID-19 or shows symptoms. Parents/guardians as well as emergency contacts of participants who are a direct roommate with a participant who contracts COVID-19 will also be notified by the Office of Service Learning.

Independent Travel Recommendations

- The Office of Service Learning strongly recommends that participants do not elect to travel independently after the USD sponsored program. Independent travel during the USD sponsored program is not advised and may be restricted by mandates of the host location and/or by the program coordinator leading the group responsible for overseeing the collective health needs of the group.

Personal Protection Equipment

- During the entirety of the program, participants will be expected to follow local and state guidelines including wearing a clean mask that covers the mouth and nose (or appropriate face covering such as a face shield), practice good hygiene, and follow social distancing guidelines.
- Participants should be prepared to travel with a sufficient supply of masks and/or other appropriate face coverings for the duration of the program. This may include disposable masks or cloth masks that can be washed and reused. Participants are responsible for their own supply of masks and/or other appropriate face covering.
- Participants should be prepared to travel with a sufficient supply of hand sanitizer and/or disinfecting wipes. Participants are responsible for their own supply of hand sanitizer and/or disinfecting wipes.
- Masks must be utilized during any program activity that requires the use of them. USD staff may have a small supply to provide but having a necessary face covering is ultimately the responsibility of the participant. If a mask (or other appropriate face covering) cannot be provided, the participant will not be allowed to participate.

Local Responses to COVID-19

- Transmission rates for COVID-19 in any given location can increase at any time. Consequently, participants are warned that the host country/providence/state/city/etc. may elect to implement and enforce control strategies at any time. These control strategies may include, but are not limited to, closing businesses that are considered non-essential, restricting movement via public transportation both nationally and internationally, suspending in-person classes, and requiring all residents and visitors to

remain in their homes at all times other than when procuring food, seeking medical care or providing for the elderly or the infirm.

- For participants that have been enrolled in a CISI insurance policy by USD for the duration of the sponsored program should note that CISI does not cover the cost of early departures home, even if quarantine and/or shelter-in-place policies are enacted. If a participant is hospitalized, and it becomes medically necessary due to the immediate health risk for that participant, the CISI policy will come into play. In other words, any individual who is not gravely ill or injured, as documented by a local physician, and approved by the insurance company, would NOT be eligible for emergency repatriation. Should a participant choose to travel home before the program ends due to circumstances stemming from COVID-19 concerns or for any other reason, all related expenses would be the responsibility of the participant.
- Additionally, CISI insurance DOES NOT provide trip delay, trip cancellation, trip cancellation for any reason (CFAR), trip interruption, or trip Interruption for any reason (IFAR) coverage. Separate “Worldwide Trip Protection Plus Benefits” can be purchased by the individual if desired.
- It must also be noted that travel restrictions could be implemented at any time and without a great deal of warning by the host country and/or the participant’s home country. This could complicate a participant’s departure or return home, or a family member’s ability to visit the participant. Should travel restrictions or local quarantine requirements necessitate that a participant stay beyond the established end date of the program, USD will endeavor to extend housing contracts where possible. Any additional costs associated with the extra days of housing and other necessities may fall on the responsibility of the participant. For international travel, host country governments may enact policies that prohibit international travelers from entering their countries at any time.

Financial Considerations

- Any programs canceled by USD any time after student acceptance to their program will not offer a refund of program charges to the affected participants, including individual and program related unrecoverable costs.
- If a participant elects to withdraw from a program because of COVID-19 concerns after the commitment date, unrecoverable costs paid by the university on behalf of the participant and other unrecoverable funds will not be dispersed.
- It is highly probable that no refunds from USD will be issued to participants if a program is canceled or suspended after the program start date. Each situation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Office of Service Learning.
- If a participant had contact with a person who has COVID-19 or tested positive during the program and is required to self-quarantine/isolate, any expenses related to the extended stay will be the responsibility of the participant.

Assumption of Risk and Behavioral Commitment

- Each group travel participant will be provided with/asked to sign the “Acknowledgment of COVID-19 Safety and Security Risks” as well as “COVID-19 Behavioral Commitment” documents.
- Not adhering to the expectations outlined in the “COVID-19 Behavioral Commitment” document might lead to noncompliance with the Student Code of Conduct and could lead to the participant’s removal from the program as well as other repercussions related to the Student Code of Conduct violation upon participant’s return. Charges paid might not be reimbursed by USD and participant’s travel home might be on participant’s own expenses.

Post-Program Expectations

- Upon return from travel, participants are required to follow CDC guidelines for participants returning from travel (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>). Guidelines may list several requirements including but not limited to retesting with a viral test 3-5 days upon return, isolation from others, and self-monitoring for COVID symptoms.
- When around others, participants should maintain at least 6 feet distance from other individuals (particularly those who are not from their household), practice good hygiene, use a face covering when in public, and continue to monitor their health for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Participants should self-monitor, track symptoms for a 14 day period.
- If a program participant shows symptoms and/or tests positive for COVID-19 in a 14 day after arrival home period, the participant or a family member/guardian has to immediately inform COVID19@usd.edu and the Office of Service Learning (engage@usd.edu). USD staff will inform the full group that a fellow student has tested positive, without specifying the participant’s name. The group leader(s) and roommate(s) of the sick individual will be notified directly of the positive test and protocols they need to follow as a result.

The following guidance is sourced from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website: International Travel During COVID-19. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>. Published June 10, 2021. Accessed July 14, 2021.

Recommendations for Vaccinated Travelers

Before you travel

- Make sure you understand and follow all airline and destination requirements related to travel, mask wearing, testing, or quarantine, which may differ from U.S. requirements. If you do not follow your destination’s requirements, you may be denied entry and required to return to the United States.
- Check the current COVID-19 situation in your destination.

During traveling

- Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and while indoors at U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Travelers are not required to wear a mask in outdoor areas of a conveyance (like a ferry or top deck of a bus).
- Follow all recommendations and requirements at your destination, including mask wearing and social distancing

Before re-entry in the United States

- All air passengers coming to the United States, including U.S. citizens and fully vaccinated people, are required to have a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 3 days before travel or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past 3 months before they board a flight to the United States.

After travel

- Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
- Follow all state and local recommendations or requirements after travel.

Recommendations For Unvaccinated People If you are not fully vaccinated and must travel, take the following steps to protect yourself and others from COVID-19:

Before you travel

- Get tested with a viral test 1-3 days before your trip.
- Make sure you understand and follow all airline and destination requirements related to travel, testing, or quarantine, which may differ from U.S. requirements. If you do not follow your destination's requirements, you may be denied entry and required to return to the United States.
- Check the COVID-19 situation in your destination.

While you are traveling

- Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and while indoors at U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Travelers are not required to wear a mask in outdoor areas of a conveyance (like on a ferry or the top deck of a bus). CDC recommends that travelers who are not fully vaccinated continue to wear a mask and maintain physical distance when traveling.
- Avoid crowds and stay at least 6 feet/2 meters (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not traveling with you.
- Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).

Before re-entry in the United States

- All air passengers coming to the United States, including U.S. citizens and fully vaccinated people, are required to have a negative COVID-19 viral test result no more than 3 days before travel or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past 3 months before they board a flight to the United States.

After you travel

- Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
 - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
 - If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
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- If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
- Follow all state and local recommendations or requirements.

Visit your state, territorial, tribal, and local health department's website to look for the latest information on where to get tested.