



NAFSA Peer-to-Peer Perspectives: Restarting Education Abroad

NAFSA Education Abroad Knowledge Community
Health and Safety Subcommittee

NAFSA Health and Safety Subcommittee Members



Andrea Drake, University of Massachusetts Amherst (co-chair)

Chris Cook, Cornell University (co-chair)

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William Huser, New York University

Daniel Kampsen, Lafayette College

Katie Kirkland, Providence Day School

Colin McElroy, CIEE

Jennifer Wilkinson, London Metropolitan University



Today's Agenda

10:00-10:30

Three Perspectives on Restarting Education Abroad

10:30-10:40

Responding to the Change in Travel Advisories

10:40-11:00

Q&A

11:00-11:45

Breakout rooms

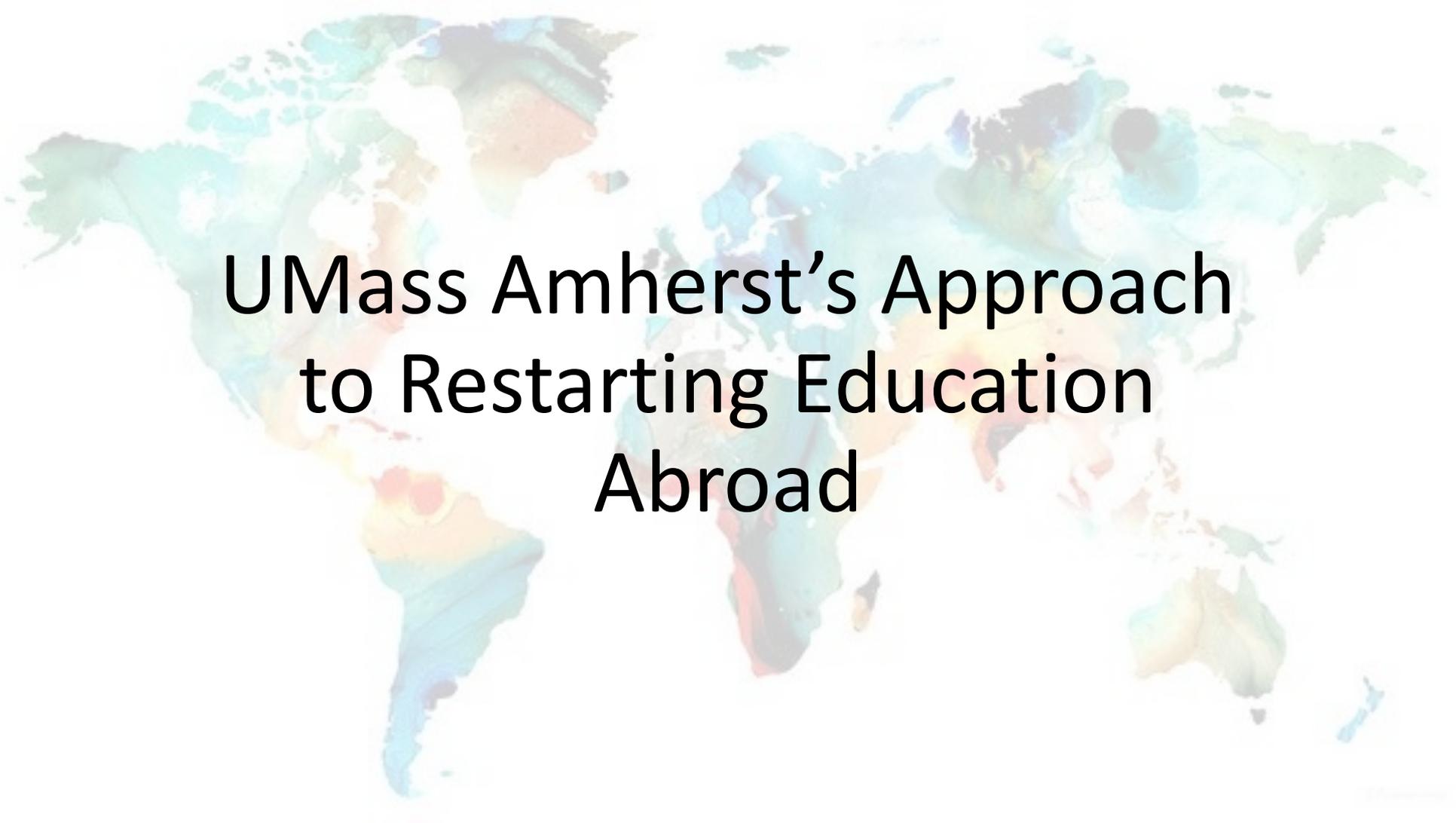
11:45-12

Q&A and Closing Remarks



Polls!

Please answer the poll questions



UMass Amherst's Approach to Restarting Education Abroad

UMass Amherst Institutional Profile



- Commonwealth's flagship campus
- Large public research university
- Enrollment (Fall 2020)
 - 24,233 undergraduate students
 - 7,409 graduate students
 - 31,642 total students

Education Abroad

- Students mainly go abroad for semester or academic year instead of short-term program
- Approx 1,200 undergraduate students abroad annually

Education Abroad Numbers

Pre-Covid enrollment

- **Fall**
230 undergrads
- **Spring**
750-800 undergrads
- **Summer**
300 undergrads
7 faculty-taught programs

Covid enrollment

- **Fall 2020**
17 students*
*includes home country internships (2)
- **Fall 2021**
approx 150 students
- **Spring 2021**
47 students*
*includes those who haven't departed yet (3), virtual (2), and home country internships (4)
- **Summer 2021**
approx. 60-70 undergrads
2 faculty-taught programs (*we hope!*)

UMass Amherst's Approach

1. Narrow options by *country*

- a. Continually evaluate a large variety of data sources on country's COVID rates, have no-go thresholds

2. Narrow options by *program*

- a. Carefully narrow program options, based on data **from partners**

3. Prepare students, set expectations

- a. [COVID-19 Acknowledgement Form](#)
- b. Vaccinations required starting Summer 2021

"It's definitely a great experience so far, despite covid."

"Despite everything, I am still extremely grateful that I am able to spend my time here."

"The pandemic has put up many roadblocks, but they have all been such growing experiences."

Approach to the new advisories

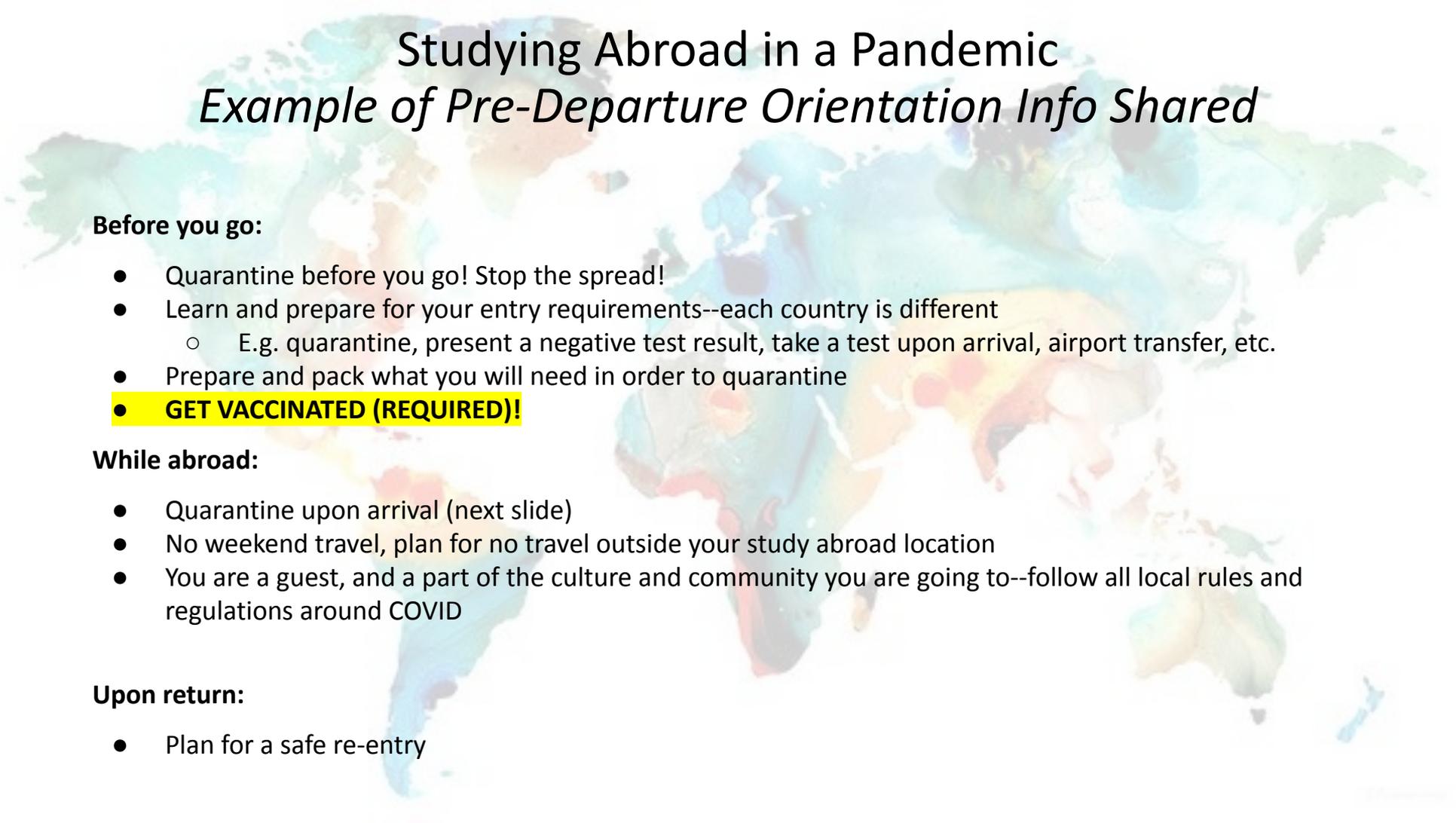
- Already use as one of several factors
 - Why? Well:

COUNTRY	REGION	Vaccination Rates, at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine (5.4.21)	CDC (5.4.21)	US DOS (5.4.21)	WHO Efficiency of Care (static)	Global Health Security Index assessment (static)	Harvard Metrics on Case Rates (5.4.21)	WHO current COVID infection rates/spread (5.4.21)	Our World in Data Daily Positive Test Rates (5.4.21)
Cuba	Central	n/a	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	39	35.2	Yellow	Community transmission	0.00%
United Kingdom	Europe	50.95%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	18	77.9	Yellow	Community transmission	0.20%
Denmark	Europe	23.61%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	34	70.4	Orange	Community transmission	0.40%
Portugal	Europe	24.84%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	12	60.3	Yellow	Clusters of cases	0.80%
Czech Republic/Czechia	Europe	21.12%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	48	52	Orange	Community transmission	1.40%
Cyprus	Europe	20.10%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	24	43	Red	Clusters of cases	1.50%
United Arab Emirates	Middle	51.38%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	27	46.7	Orange	Clusters of cases	1.60%
Ireland	Europe	23.22%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	19	59	Yellow	Community transmission	2.50%
Russia	Asia	8.53%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	130	44.3	Yellow	Clusters of cases	3.00%
Panama	Central	11.61%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	95	43.7	Yellow	Community transmission	4.10%
Malaysia	Asia	2.83%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	49	62.2	Yellow	Community transmission	4.20%
Greece	Europe	21.03%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	14	53.8	Orange	Community transmission	4.30%
Italy	Europe	24.61%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	2	56.2	Orange	Clusters of cases	4.40%
South Africa	Africa	0.55%	CDC Level 4	USDOS Level 4	175	54.8	Yellow	Community transmission	4.60%



Lessons Learned

- Know your programs inside out (understand the testing, quarantine definitions in that country)
 - Lean on **partners**
- SET EXPECTATIONS with students
 - Pre-Departure Orientation
- Maintain routine contact with students abroad
- Faculty travel requests--treat as dialogue, compromise



Studying Abroad in a Pandemic

Example of Pre-Departure Orientation Info Shared

Before you go:

- Quarantine before you go! Stop the spread!
- Learn and prepare for your entry requirements--each country is different
 - E.g. quarantine, present a negative test result, take a test upon arrival, airport transfer, etc.
- Prepare and pack what you will need in order to quarantine
- **GET VACCINATED (REQUIRED)!**

While abroad:

- Quarantine upon arrival (next slide)
- No weekend travel, plan for no travel outside your study abroad location
- You are a guest, and a part of the culture and community you are going to--follow all local rules and regulations around COVID

Upon return:

- Plan for a safe re-entry

Prepare for Quarantine

Example of Pre-Departure Orientation Info Shared

- Learn exactly what a quarantine looks like in your host country
 - Different definitions of “quarantine”!! (e.g. London vs. Seoul)
- Up to 14 days of physical isolation--what do you need to feel well?
 - Many programs are doing virtual on-site orientations during this time
 - Connect with other students, make plans for after quarantine
 - Consider bringing favorite foods/snacks
 - Consider virtual classes, exercises, virtual tours, etc.
- Prepare for more quarantines as needed (e.g. in case of exposure)!
- Who is your support network?
- You are not alone--so many people all over the world have had to quarantine during these times



Cornell University's Approach to Restarting Education Abroad

Fall Restart



Foundations

- We generally don't do summer programming and the study abroad office does not currently administer faculty-led.
- Study abroad administers most of the programming, but not all. Some units manage a few key partnerships.
- Study abroad programs would run outside the general travel prohibitions or policies.

- We started the process of looking ahead to fall 2021 in October with an eye to a reduced portfolio....The strategy has been adjusted but we ended up landing on THE PLAN in Feb.

The Plan

- Two reviews of programming-just not feasible to review country specific info too soon.
- March Review (Partner & Sponsoring Unit Assessment)
 - Borrowed heavily from the OSAC TPP questions doc.
 - Purpose was to gather info about the partner (Fall 2021 plan, can they go virtual, do they have solid mitigation measures, etc.).
 - Every partner was asked to complete this.
 - Sponsoring unit also filled out a survey for every program (agree to offer PDO, agree to ensure students register, agreement in place).
 - Sent to me and I assessed and made a recommendation of “viable” or “have concerns.”
- April-May (On-Watch Period)
- June Review (Site Assessment)
 - Sponsoring units will submit a list of programs that still may run & verify key info from partner (still planning in-person).
 - I will conduct a review (border restrictions, healthcare infrastructure, COVID impact and virus trends).
 - Travel Risk Committee will make a recommendation on go/no-go.
 - Even with a “go,” we will continue to monitor, and cancel if we must.

Lessons Learned

- Units wanted guidance on how to speak to students and parents about the process.
 - “What does “contingent” mean? Is it safe to study abroad? Why would you let me go to DoS 4?”
- Units wanted suggestions for COVID-related Pre-departure topics.
- Pretty much everyone had solid mitigation plans in place a year into all of this.
- Not every partner was able to respond to the survey.
- What is important is a moving target.
 - Vaccination
 - Intelligence sources



CIEE's Approach to Restarting Education Abroad

CIEE HEALTH RISK INDEX (HRI)

Multiple sources for institutions to monitor (WHO, John Hopkins, Worldometer, Deep Knowledge Group, IHME, DoS, CDC, paid/open-source intelligence services, etc.)

Safety Framework:

-  Monitoring and detection capacities
- Medical system capabilities
-  Quarantine efficacy

Risk Framework:

-  Infection Presence and Spread
- Healthcare availability
- Disease Management: Testing
-  Governmental Responsiveness

CIEE HEALTH RISK INDEX														HRR		
Location	13-Apr	13-Jul	10-Aug	8-Sep	5-Oct	2-Nov	30-Nov	4-Jan	2-Feb	2-Mar	30-Mar	13-Apr	27-Apr	Change since start	Change since last report	Last 14 days new cases/100k
Africa & Middle East																
Botswana	37	27	30	33	33	40	40	40	40	41	41	41	41	↓		134
Ghana	37	41	41	35	32	32	32	32	38	38	32	32	32	↑		3
Jordan	24	22	22	26	39	45	43	36	33	40	44	40	37	↓	↑	363
Morocco	31	30	37	39	39	40	40	33	26	26	25	25	25	↑		20
South Africa	36	49	48	43	39	39	40	50	42	35	33	33	33	↑		30
Asia-Pacific																
Australia	13	16	22	17	15	15	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	↓		1.0
China	14	20	22	21	22	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	↓		0.0
Japan	35	26	32	26	26	26	32	36	33	27	29	33	36		↓	54
Singapore	28	18	19	16	16	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	↑		6
South Korea	15	18	18	19	19	19	25	29	26	26	25	29	29	↓		19
Taiwan	20	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	↑		0.2
Europe																
Czech Republic	31	27	31	35	45	55	50	53	53	57	54	50	47	↓	↑	388
Denmark	27	15	18	21	24	28	28	29	23	22	25	25	25	↑		183
England	49	29	26	35	45	49	46	53	51	41	36	35	35	↑		54
France	41	32	36	46	53	63	49	49	51	54	55	56	54	↓	↑	715
Germany	32	26	29	30	31	42	46	49	43	40	46	47	48	↓		374
Ireland	39	29	32	33	39	40	36	43	41	34	33	33	33	↑		124
Italy	39	32	35	37	38	53	55	47	45	50	52	47	44	↓	↑	333
Netherlands	42	29	31	35	41	46	41	42	38	41	44	45	45	↓		680
Portugal	39	30	27	28	33	41	43	47	50	42	37	37	36	↑		70
Russia	34	39	38	38	45	50	53	51	46	41	35	35	35			87
Spain	42	31	40	54	53	56	50	49	55	50	45	48	49	↓		269
Latin America																
Argentina	37	46	50	64	68	66	52	52	48	45	47	53	55	↓	↓	781
Chile	40	49	44	43	42	40	37	38	41	40	46	47	44	↓	↑	500
Costa Rica	36	37	44	48	50	49	48	48	43	40	42	43	46	↓	↓	404
Dominican Republic	43	46	47	45	41	40	42	45	45	42	35	35	35	↑		68
Mexico	43	52	60	53	48	45	49	49	52	47	38	37	37	↑		39
North America																
Canada		26	25	29	38	40	41	42	37	34	37	40	41	↓		329
United States	69	74	74	72	75	80	83	84	80	73	63	65	61	↑	↑	279

<https://www.ciee.org/about/blog/health-risk-index-report>



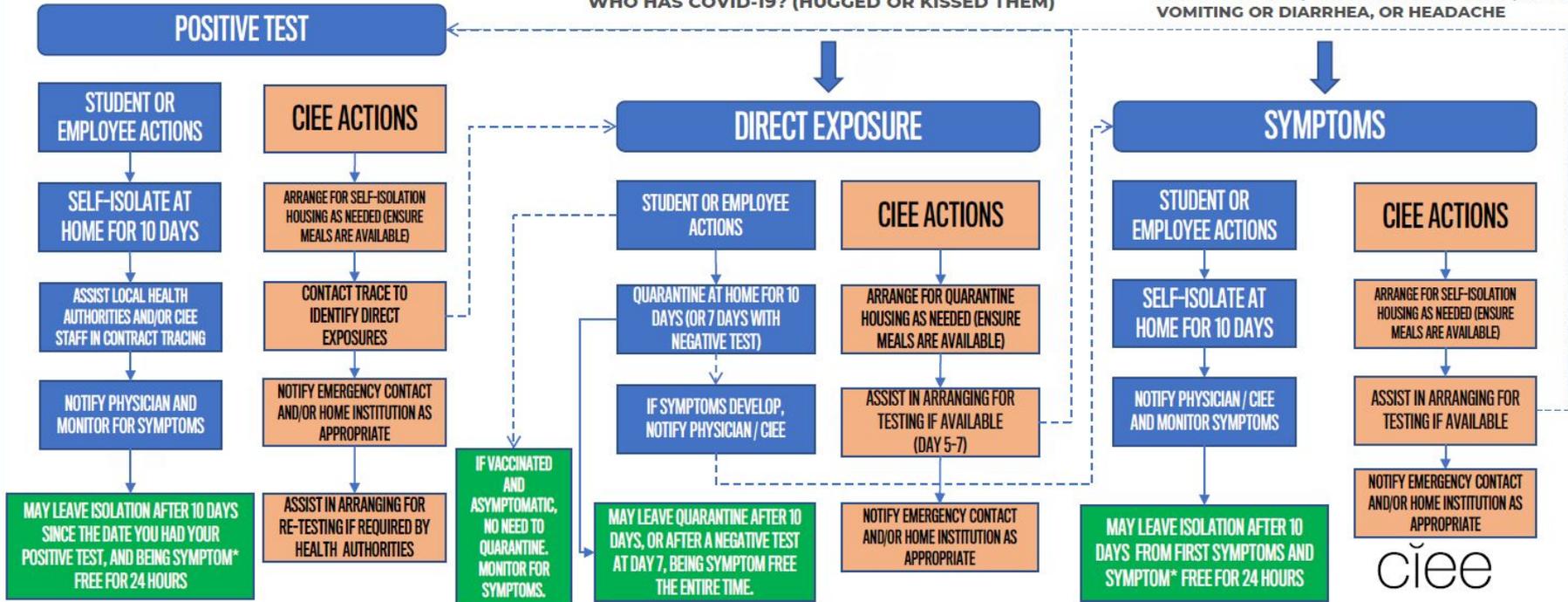
COVID-19 RESPONSE PROTOCOL FOR PARTICIPANTS AND STAFF

1. SCREENING QUESTIONS

2. HAVE YOU TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19?

- DO YOU LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD/ROOM AS A PERSON WITH COVID-19?
- HAVE YOU BEEN WITHIN 6 FEET OF A PERSON WHO HAS COVID-19 FOR A TOTAL OF 15 MINUTES OR MORE?
- HAD DIRECT PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS COVID-19? (HUGGED OR KISSED THEM)

ARE YOU EXPERIENCING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS?: FEVER OF 100 F (37.8 C) OR ABOVE, OR POSSIBLE FEVER SYMPTOMS LIKE ALTERNATING CHILLS AND SWEATING, COUGH, TROUBLE BREATHING, SHORTNESS OF BREATH OR SEVERE WHEEZING, CHILLS OR REPEATED SHAKING WITH CHILLS, MUSCLE ACHES, SORE THROAT, LOSS OF SMELL OR TASTE, OR A CHANGE IN TASTE, NAUSEA, VOMITING OR DIARRHEA, OR HEADACHE



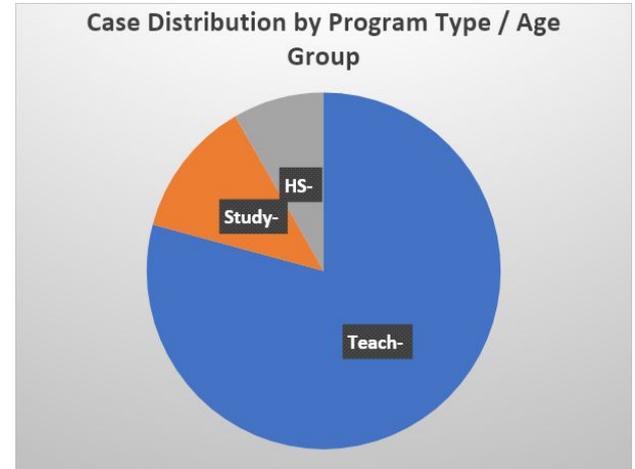
*Loss of Taste/Smell may persist for weeks/months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.

COVID-19 Cases on CIEE Programs

4,650 Participants / 24 Cases*

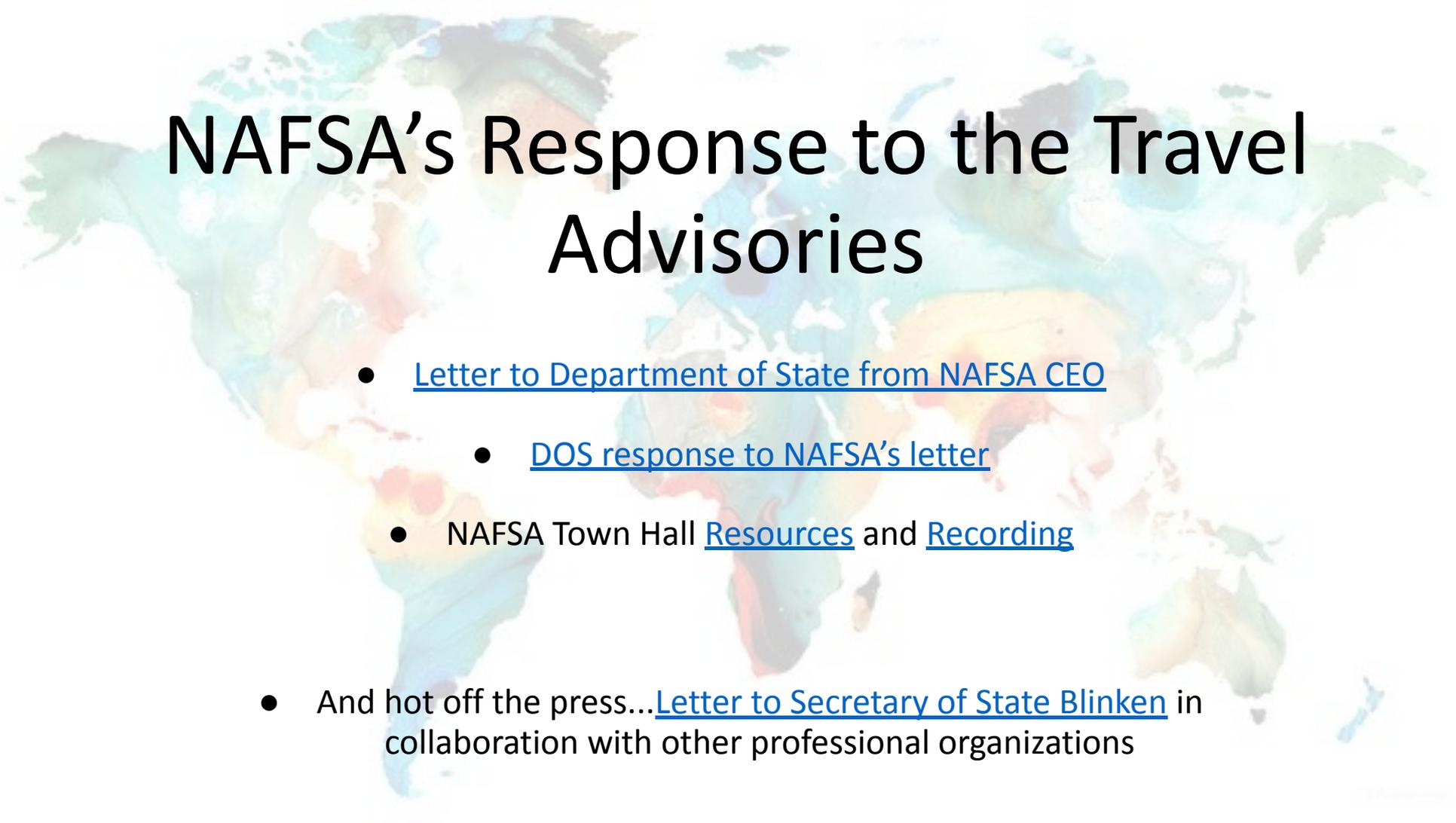
- % CIEE Participants confirmed cases = < 1%
 - Confirmed locally acquired infections = 3 (.06%)
 - Total Non-positive Quarantines/Exposures = 12
 - Large Teach (post-Grad) case numbers in Spring
 - unauthorized party during arrival hotel quarantine
 - **Positive On-Arrival** or On-Arrival fellow student exposure = 87% of confirmed cases
- Fall 2020
 - 1 x France (High School) - Local
 - 2 x Germany (Study) - **1 x On Arrival**
 - 1 x Thailand (Teach) – **On Arrival**

- Spring 2021
 - 1 x Costa Rica (High School) – **On Arrival**
 - 1 x France (Study) - Local
 - 15 x Spain (Teach) – **On Arrival**
 - 3 x South Korea (Teach) – **On Arrival**



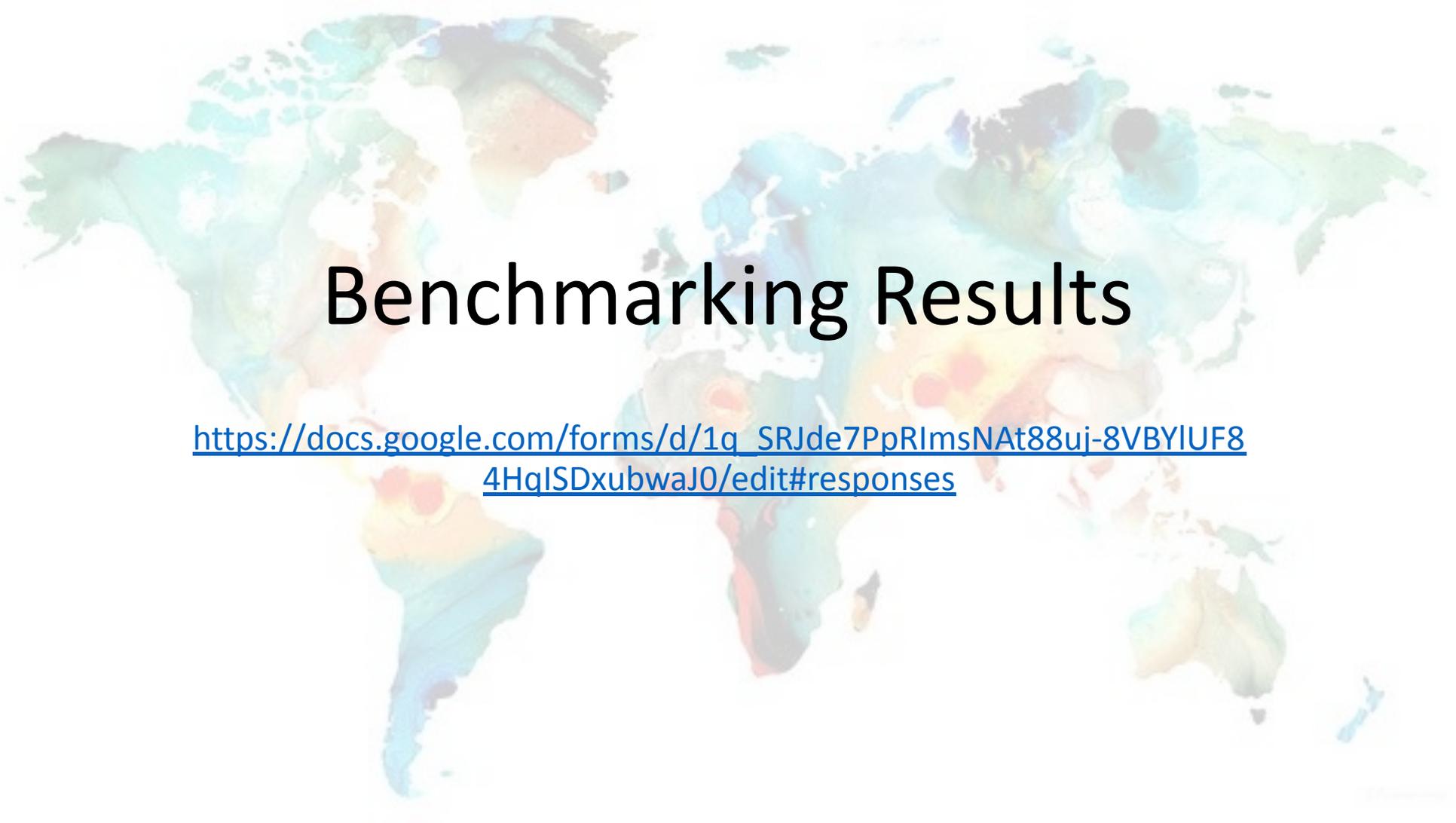
*No serious illness or hospitalizations reported

CIEE



NAFSA's Response to the Travel Advisories

- [Letter to Department of State from NAFSA CEO](#)
 - [DOS response to NAFSA's letter](#)
 - NAFSA Town Hall [Resources](#) and [Recording](#)
- And hot off the press...[Letter to Secretary of State Blinken](#) in collaboration with other professional organizations



Benchmarking Results

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1q_SRJde7PpRImsNAt88uj-8VBYIUF84HqISDxubwaJ0/edit#responses

That's nice but...I'm a small or understaffed University, so what should I do?

- Options to Transfer Risk: based on your resources, you should determine if your organization can (or wants to) assume risk or if you should outsource and transfer risk. For example:
 - Utilize the services of a study abroad Provider (outsource)
 - Partner with another University abroad program (outsource)
 - Transfer risk to the Student (waivers)
 - Programs have variable risk levels (partner program vs. faculty led)
- Also consider:
 - Develop an International Risk Management Committee/Team and make decisions with key stakeholders across the university
 - Utilize the services of a paid-intelligence provider (outsource)
 - Utilize the services of a study abroad provider to provide health and safety back-up (outsource)
 - Hiring a dedicated position to international health, safety, and security



Sample Letter to Recommend Change in Travel Policy

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V3n0eT_u8AfJKRH_FzoEHlof4sTU8bWCTs3gWJFLldQ/edit?usp=sharing



Also forthcoming: Shared Resource for Evaluating Risk Abroad During COVID

Joint effort by the NAFSA EARP and EAKC Health and Safety
Subcommittee!

Stay Tuned!



Questions?

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