Mobility and Management: How will COVID-19 shape the new “normal”? 

Wednesday, April 28, 2021
Check to ensure speakers are turned on and up in 3 places:

**The Ring Central Speaker Icon in Your Browser**

**The Volume on the Computer Speakers**

**The Soundcard on the Computer**
Today’s Panelists

Adria Baker, EdD, Associate Vice Provost for international Education, Rice University

Catherine Ebelke, PA-C, CTH, Montana State University - Bozeman

Cindy Friedman, MD, Chief of the Travelers’ Health Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Jeff Gaskill, ACS Division Chief, East Asia & Pacific Affairs - Overseas Citizens Services, U.S. Department of State

Kalpen Trivedi, PhD, Associate Provost for International Programs, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Caroline Donovan White, MA NAFSA

Joann Ng Hartmann, MS NAFSA
Audience Poll

With which area of international education do you *primarily* affiliate?

- Education Abroad
- International Enrollment Management
- International Student & Scholar Services
- International Education Leadership
- Teaching, Learning & Scholarship

*Please respond using the poll feature on your screen.*
Overview

Welcome and overview

CDC: Current Health Recommendations

ACHA: State/Local mandates, policies & guidance

Institutional Perspectives

DOS: Travel Advisories

Q&A Discussion
Welcome and Overview
Current Challenges & Issues

- Institutions planning in-person return
- Hybrid is here to stay
- Institutional Infrastructure
  - Technology, staffing, funding
- DOS Travel Advisory Levels
- Risk management
- Vaccine, COVID-19 testing, health certificate/passport requirements
Health recommendations for Travel
Overview

- CDC Travel Health Notices
- Latest CDC travel recommendations
- Issues for study-abroad programs
- Verifiable vaccination certificates
CDC advises fully vaccinated travelers to pay close attention to the current situation at their destination before traveling internationally.

<table>
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<th>Travel Health Notice Level</th>
<th>Cumulative 28-day incidence rate per 100,000</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>&gt;100</td>
<td>All travelers: avoid all travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>51-100</td>
<td>All travelers: avoid nonessential travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>5-50</td>
<td>Travelers at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19: avoid nonessential travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>All travelers: wear mask, maintain distance (6 feet), avoid crowds, wash hands, check health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Primary data: official case counts reported to WHO
- Secondary data: number of tests per capita and test-to-case ratio
- All criteria are measured over a 28-day period
- Reviewed by CDC daily
- Changes in THN level are updated on a weekly basis
Why are THN levels so high worldwide?

- Relaxation of control measures
- Variants of concern that are more transmissible
- Low vaccination coverage in many countries
As more people get vaccinated...

- Fully vaccinated people are at low risk of symptomatic & severe COVID-19
- Fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection and potentially less likely to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others
Domestic travel

- Fully vaccinated travelers do not need to get tested pre- and post-travel or self-quarantine after travel.
**International travel**

Fully vaccinated international travelers:

- No longer need to get tested before outbound travel
- No longer need to self-quarantine after travel
- Must show proof of a negative viral test before boarding a flight to the United States
- Should still get tested 3-5 days after travel

<table>
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<tr>
<th>International Travel Recommendations and Requirements</th>
<th>Not Vaccinated</th>
<th>Fully Vaccinated</th>
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<tr>
<td>Get tested 1-3 days before traveling out of the US</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandatory test required before flying to US</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Get tested 3-5 days after travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-quarantine after travel for 7 days with a negative test or 10 days without test</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Self-monitor for symptoms</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</table>
Students in study-abroad programs may face unpredictable circumstances in host country

- High Burden of COVID-19
- Restrictions of movement
- Difficulty accessing medical care if sick or injured
- Mandatory quarantine and lockdowns
- Adequate availability of testing
  - Must have access to testing and results no more than 3 days before flying to the United States
Programs planning to offer study-abroad should advise students to:

- Get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before traveling
- Be aware of and follow all airline and destination entry requirements, such as testing, vaccination, mask wearing and quarantine
- Consider getting insurance to cover health care and emergency evacuation
- Discuss study abroad plans with their doctor if they are at increased risk for severe disease

Have You Been Fully Vaccinated?
People are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine
Verifiable Vaccination Credentials

 CDC acknowledges there is increasing interest in verifiable vaccination credentials (VVCs) to certify vaccination, especially as it relates to travel both domestically and internationally.

 CDC’s role is to participate in USG discussions and contribute subject matter expertise related to overall public health considerations.

 There will be no centralized, universal federal vaccinations database and no federal mandate requiring everyone to obtain a single vaccination credential.

 VVCs should be widely available, accessible in digital and paper formats, free, and meet equity standards.

 VVCs will meet privacy, security, and anti-fraud protections, as well as technological specifications.
Final thoughts

- CDC uses a data-driven approach to assess COVID-19 risks and to provide recommendations to international travelers

- Consider the COVID-19 situation at destinations, including Travel Health Notice levels and local restrictions when planning study-abroad

- All travelers should be fully vaccinated before their trip
Travelers’ Health Resources

- Travel Health Notices
- Destination Pages
- Disease Directory
- Yellow Book 2020

Social Media

Follow Travelers’ Health on social media:

- @CDCTravelers
- @CDCTravelersHealth
- @CDCTravel

Email Updates

Subscribe to email updates to get travel notices, clinical updates, & healthy travel tips.

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Travel Health Notices (Weekly)
- Yellow Book Updates
Web links

- Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

- Science Brief: Background Rationale and Evidence for Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

- When You’ve Been Fully Vaccinated: How to Protect Yourself and Others

- Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination

- Travel during COVID-19

- COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Destination

- How CDC Determines the Level for COVID-19 Travel Health Notices
State and Local Guidance
Practical Health and Safety for International Travel at IHEs

Intentional collaboration across campus and community

Standing committee of relevant parties

Excellent communication crucial

Adaptability and agility

Identify and Utilize Health and Safety Resources and expertise
Outbound Travelers:
Program and Institutional Level Health and Safety Considerations

Knowledge of and access to US and Global Safety and Health Information and Resources

Effects of existing travel restrictions (e.g., recent Level 4, European news) and potential for new unexpected travel restrictions – or lifting of same

Insurance:
Evacuation
In-country Availability

Travel Registry essential

Destination considerations

Myriad Unknowns
Outbound Travelers:
Student and Faculty Level Health and Safety Considerations

PDOs for students, faculty, staff crucial
- Strong Health and Safety component
- Mandatory
- Solid COVID knowledge
- COVID-related travel items
- Pre-Travel Health Screenings
- Emergency and Communication planning vital

Vaccination Considerations
- Requirements?
- Timeline
- Other needed immunizations
- Continuation of COVID precautions post-vaccination
- Acceptable Documentation

Testing Considerations
- Type of testing required
- Where, when, how
- Recent hx of COVID infection and Documentation of Recovery

Accessing Healthcare Abroad
- Physical health
- Mental health
- Destination healthcare system condition
- All-cause care may be strained due to pandemic
## Incoming International Travelers:

International and returning US students, faculty, researchers, guests

### Conflicting Information

- Establish policies and protocols to address current potentially conflicting mandates, regulations, recommendations
- Mechanisms to address these issues is crucial
- Collaborative approach across campus and wider community (local, state, tribal, national) entities
- Adaptability for inevitable changes
- Clear messaging
- Information provided to incoming travelers as far in advance of travel as feasible
- Establish and communicate policies for campus guests (students, researchers, guest faculty, visiting scholars) arriving from international points

### COVID-19 Testing & Vaccinations

- **TESTING:**
  - Who?
  - What test acceptable?
  - Documentation?
  - When?
  - Where?
  - How?
  - Who pays?
  - Recent (<90 days) infection?
- **VACCINATIONS:**
  - Current requirements?
  - What type acceptable?
  - What documentation needed?
  - Availability upon arrival?
  - Routine Immunizations still crucial
    - MMR X 2 or titer
    - Meningococcal
    - Men B
    - TDaP
    - TB testing

### Quarantine, Isolation Planning & Ongoing Support

- Housing and food
- Remote learning
- Healthcare access (physical and mental health)
- Challenges continue with xenophobia, isolation and other related issues
- Campus and community support essential as ever….even more so now

### Orientation

- Important to include strong Health and Safety component
- Mandatory participation
- How to access and utilize healthcare while at US host institution, for both physical and mental health
- Welcome utilization of available services
- Provide solid COVID information including symptoms, seeking advice and care if concerns arise, continuing precautions even if vaccinated etc
- Provide resources for COVID-related supplies
International Travel Health and Safety Considerations in COVID Times

- Foundational for Travel
- Resources and expertise identified and utilized
- Intentional collaboration
- Clarity in decision-making and messaging
- Excellent Communication
- Flexibility and Adaptability
The ‘old’ Normal
- Top-25 Public Research University in the US
- State flagship, R1 (Very High Research Activity)
- 22,600 undergrads; 4,300 grads; 4,500 distance
- 3,800 international students, including OPT
  - New international students each year: ~1,000 (UG/G – 50%-50%)
- 1,400 study-abroad per year (usually!)
  - Students Abroad in Spring 2020: ~770
- 2,000+ individual faculty, staff, student (non study-abroad) university-tracked international travel
- J-1 scholars/visitors: ~550 p.a.

The New ‘Normal’
- Study-Abroad Students
  - Fall 2020: 17
  - Spring 2021: 47
  - Summer 2021 (estimated): 60
- New International Students
  - Fall 2020: UG-6/G-18
  - Spring 2021: UG-65/6-165
  - Fall 2021 (est.): UG: 300/350
- J-1 Scholars/visitors:
  - Fall 2020: 29
  - Spring 2021: 25
  - Fall 2021 (estimated): 40
- Approved faculty/staff International Travel
  - Fall 2020: 8 trips
  - Spring 2021 (YTD): 9 trips
Fall 2021 Opening Plans

- All faculty, staff, and students to return to campus in-person this fall.
- Vaccines required for all undergraduate and graduate students.
- All faculty and staff are also strongly encouraged to get vaccinated.
- All classes normally taught in-person will return to that mode of delivery (exceptions only for international students UNABLE to travel to campus).
- Student support services, such as the Learning Resource Center, Registrar’s Office, International Programs Office, cultural centers, and more, will be available in-person.
- Small, in-person events will be offered to allow flexibility for any public health and safety COVID-19 guidance.
- Off-campus students will have access to university support services and resources.
Travel Risk Management

- Complex set of criteria for assessing travel risk
- Dept of State and CDC advisories generally given high weight, but are not dispositive
- Other sources of information:
  - Insurance and Intelligence providers
  - Five-Eyes government advisories
  - Local partners and providers in destination
  - Health data from WHO and Global Health Security Index
  - Currently, also Covid related data from Harvard Metrics on Case Rates, Johns Hopkins, National Data Sources
## Covid Risk Assessment Snapshot

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</table>
Travel Policies

- Undergraduate Study-Abroad
- Bespoke and granular assessment per location
- Study-abroad philosophy
  - Available
  - Allowable
  - Accessible
- Restrictions will continue through 2021-22, with gradual expansion of opportunities
- Reviewing vaccine requirements for all study-abroad participants

- Faculty/Staff Approved Travel
- Each request individually reviewed
  - Dean’s recommendation
  - IPO travel risk assessment, including Covid-specific risks
  - Provost’s Approval (per IPO recommendation)
- Policy will be gradually loosened starting summer of 2021
Protocols for COVID-19: Looking to Fall 2021 and Beyond

Protocols: Campus communications, testing, vaccinations found: return.rice.edu.

- **Fall 2021** – *In-person instruction* on-campus, but offering digital educational support, to help international students who are still abroad waiting for a visa.
- **Vaccinations** offered at on-campus clinics to all Rice community. Not required, but strongly encouraged.
- **Testing, masking, social distancing** strongly required if on-campus.
- **Travel** protocols for Summer 2021 and Fall 2021

Communication and Reactions:

- Reconciling *state/local mandates* can be confusing, yet clear communication on guidance is required for success at many levels.
- **Report on what is the status at that moment** in time – what we know now. Anything and everything is subject to change. **Empathy and kindness** are key critical. Everyone is dealing with difficult times.
- How **creative** can you get to communicate updates?
- Ultimate **decision-making** – and communication - with the Crisis Management Leadership with Provost and President.
- Address concerns as you are able. Be **transparent**.

Some Covid “Keeper” New Norms:

- Keeping some online access, meetings, etc., as desired.
- Thinking “outside of the box” at all times.
- More rotating schedule possibilities.
- Multi-venue trainings and international engagement.
Insights Learned and Projections for the Future

The Global Pandemic and International Students, Scholars & Partnerships

➢ Every decision has a significant “domino effect”.
➢ Four pillars that are intermeshed, with over-reaching consequences:
  • Status of Covid-19
  • Institutional policies / Academic decisions
  • ICE/SEVP laws
  • U.S. Consular visa processing status
➢ Residential college system; Research institution – Reactions include: Great teaching. Seeking more extensive college life experience. Experiential education limited, but new models are emerging.
➢ Mobility limitations has opened a multi-tiered opportunities for educational exchange, recruitment and outreach.
➢ We must be hopeful, patient, creative and advocate as we can. Learn what communication avenues are most effective for your international students, scholars, and campus.
DOS Travel Advisories
### Upcoming Events

**www.nafsa.org**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 29 12pm-1pm EDT</td>
<td><strong>Webinar:</strong> Responsible Education Abroad: Best Practices for Health, Safety and Security, held jointly by NAFSA and the Forum on Education Abroad</td>
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<td>May 6 10am-12pm EDT</td>
<td><strong>Peer to Peer Conversation:</strong> Restarting Education Abroad</td>
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<td>June 1 9am-1pm EDT</td>
<td><strong>Workshop:</strong> Getting Started with Virtual Exchange, half day program</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1 9am-1pm EDT</td>
<td><strong>Workshop:</strong> Global Operations for International Education Leaders</td>
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<td>June 1 1:30pm -5:30pm EDT</td>
<td><strong>Workshop:</strong> Budget Modeling, Control Management, and Financial Sustainability in Internationalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1-4, 2021</td>
<td>NAFSA Annual Conference and Expo</td>
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NAFSA Resources

- **Website**: NAFSA Resources for Operational Resilience
- **Website**: NAFSA Coronavirus Critical Resources, including regulatory resources
- **Digital Download**: NAFSA's Toolkit for Managing in Times of Global Uncertainty
- More information at [www.nafsa.org/conoravirus](http://www.nafsa.org/conoravirus)
Additional Resources

• American College Health Association (ACHA)
  ▪ [www.acha.org](http://www.acha.org)
  ▪ COVID-19 Information and Resources for Campuses

• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  ▪ [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
  ▪ Domestic and International Travel during COVID-19
  ▪ State & Territorial Health Departments

• Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs
  ▪ [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)
NAFSA Commitment

- **ADVOCATE**: Strong and resilient advocacy through Public Policy
- **EDUCATE**: Commitment to providing resources and programs that are innovative, time sensitive, and relevant
- **INNOVATE**: Vitality and energy of member leaders through the work of Knowledge Communities, Committees and the Regions
NAFSA: Association of International Educators is the world's largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education and exchange, working to advance policies and practices that ensure a more interconnected, peaceful world today and for generations to come.