

# Luther College Center for Global Learning

## Guidelines and Procedures: Covid Protocols

### 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 is an attempt to lay out some protocols that will better prepare students and faculty to navigate such situations.

### PRE-DEPARTURE PREPARATIONS

The CGL staff will continue to monitor the Covid situation in all locations to which Luther College programs travel, and will work with the Off-Campus Programs Risk Assessment Committee to determine whether it remains safe for our students to travel to those destinations. If the Committee concludes that a particular location poses too great a risk, the program (J-term, semester, or year-long) will be canceled for that year. If it is possible for a program to run with a curtailed travel plan (e.g. remaining within a single host country, rather than crossing borders for travel), plans will be amended accordingly.

Participants (both students and faculty) on all Luther College programs continue to be required to attend pre-departure orientations, at which vital information regarding health and security risks, and emergency procedures are communicated. All participants are also enrolled in the College's Chubb insurance policy, which includes a Quarantine benefit and extensive medical coverage (details can be found on the CGL website: <https://www.luther.edu/global-learning>), and all students and faculty studying abroad are required to be fully vaccinated and boosted against Covid, as is required by an increasing number of destination locations.

### TESTING POSITIVE: PROTOCOLS

The following directives pertain to any student receiving a positive Covid test prior to- or during travel abroad:

#### Pre-Departure

1. **Complete a pre-travel Covid test.** Follow destination-specific regulations regarding whether specific tests are required for travel. Remember that transit locations might require testing as well. CGL staff will advise students and faculty on current regulations, but all travelers are encouraged to monitor the changing situation themselves, using the IATA website: <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/world.php>. *Please note that all Luther College students and faculty are required to test prior to travel, whether their destination requires it or not. We see it as our ethical duty to avoid transmitting disease to another location.*
2. **If you receive a negative result →** you are cleared to travel! Report your result to the CGL staff person responsible for your program and get ready to fly!
3. **If you test positive →**
  - a. **Report your positive result to your faculty leader.** The faculty member will then notify student life.
  - b. **Report your positive result to the CGL.** The CGL staff will help you make alternative arrangements for travel. They will be in close contact with you throughout this process.
  - c. **Isolate.** Self-isolate for a minimum of 5 days. This means that you will avoid all contact with other people. If your symptoms resolve, you may take another test on day 5 (your first test took place on day 0). If it is negative, you may resume your normal activities (masked) and prepare to fly. If your test is positive, or your

symptoms persist, remain in isolation and may test again on day 8. If your test is positive again, isolate for a full 10 days.

#### On-site

1. **Take a Covid test.** If you feel ill, or have been exposed to Covid, take a home antigen test. If you are traveling to a destination where home tests are not readily available, the CGL will have encouraged you to bring some with you. Use one of these tests (so as not to deplete the scarce resources of your host location). If you test negative, you are likely fine, but should test again after 2 days if your symptoms persist.
2. **If you test positive,** follow these guidelines:
  - a. **Report your test to your faculty leader.** Your faculty leader will then report your case to student life and the CGL.
  - b. **Contact your family members,** to let them know what is happening.
  - c. **Isolate.** Your faculty leader will help arrange suitable quarantine accommodations for you, and will ensure that food and necessities are delivered throughout.
    - i. **You must remain in isolation for 5 days.** Follow the directions in 3.c. above regarding isolation and testing.
    - ii. **Academics.** Contact your instructor(s) to explain your situation and make arrangements to keep up with your work, either virtually or alone.
    - iii. **Monitoring.** If at any point you feel very unwell, immediately notify your faculty leader, who will arrange further medical treatment.
  - d. **Ending isolation.** If you test negative after 5 days, and you have no lingering symptoms, you may rejoin the group and resume normal activities (masked). If your symptoms persist, you may test again on day 8. If you are still positive, you may end isolation after 10 days.

#### Pre-return

1. **Take a Covid test.** Depending on the re-entry requirements for the U.S., the CGL may have sent FDA-travel-approved test kits with you. Follow the directions on the testing kit.
2. **If you test negative →** report your test to your faculty leader and pack your bags for home!
3. **If you test positive →** follow these guidelines:
  - a. **Report your result** to your faculty leader, who will then notify student life and the CGL. Please contact your family members, to let them know what is happening.
  - b. **Contact the CGL via zoom.** The CGL staff will meet with every positive student and their faculty leader to discuss next steps. If your location does not allow for a zoom meeting, you will talk via phone.
  - c. **Isolate.** Your faculty leader will help arrange suitable quarantine accommodations for you, and will ensure that food and necessities are delivered throughout. They will also arrange to either remain in-country with you during isolation, or for a CGL staff member to fly out in their place. If you are on a Luther program, the CGL will change your travel arrangements to allow for your post-isolation return. Follow the directives outlined in 3.c. above regarding isolation and testing.

#### Post-Return

If your return to the U.S. was delayed because of a positive test, 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
- Proof of negative test, or letter from a medical professional
- Receipts for any eligible expenses (housing, food, medical treatment, travel)

- Proof of non-refundable expenses (flight-change costs, deposits, etc.)

**NB: It is the policy of Luther College and the Center for Global Learning that any student or faculty member who tests positive HAS Covid. False positives are extremely rare with antigen tests, and anyone who receives a positive result will be considered infected with Covid-19, and must therefore follow the guidelines above.** We realize that it is disappointing to miss part of your study abroad experience, and equally difficult to postpone your return to campus. However, for your safety and the safety of those with whom you would travel, we need to ensure that you are free of Covid-19 when you interact with others. **Please note that YOU ARE AGREEING TO ABIDE BY THESE PROTOCOLS WHEN YOU SIGN THE COVID-19 RISK ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT.**

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

- I am required to be fully vaccinated (including booster) 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 abroad 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 abroad Partner Program, if offered, may or may not be accepted by Luther College.
- Luther College, my study abroad 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 abroad 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 does not extend to 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 abroad 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.
- Upon return from my time abroad I may be required to self-quarantine, and the details and costs of such arrangements are solely my responsibility.
- Luther College, my study abroad 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.
- 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.