

## Essential Guidance for International Travel during COVID-19 Pandemic Vaccinated Travelers

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect countries differently. Fully vaccinated travelers are less likely to acquire and transmit COVID-19. However, international travel poses additional risks and even fully vaccinated travelers may be at increased risk for becoming infected with viral variants and possibly transmitting COVID-19. Vaccinated travelers should still take steps to protect themselves and others. Challenges to any international travel at this time may include mandatory quarantines, travel restrictions, and closed borders. Foreign governments may implement restrictions with little notice, even in destinations that were previously considered low risk. If you choose to travel internationally, your trip may be severely disrupted, and it may be difficult for you to arrange travel back to the United States. **For travel deemed essential and approved by the University**, travelers should do the following before departure:

- Complete “Returning to Campus Safely” Training via Career Pathways, Sign Pledge, and Download the Drexel Health Checker App prior to Travel
- Register your travel in GRAND: <https://drexel.edu/global/resources/travel-safety/Register-Your-Travel/>
- Sign Assumption of Risk document provided to you by the ETRC upon notification of Travel Approval.
- Book travel through by contacting World Travel directly. All travel must be approved before booking. Travel not booked via World Travel will need to state reason with applicable quotes. Travel may not be booked until approved by the ETRC.
- Register in STEP <https://step.state.gov//>.
- Complete the full cycle of COVID-19 vaccination prior to Travel. As defined by the [CDC for vaccines approved for use in the United States](#), "people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 2 weeks or more after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or 2 weeks or more after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen)". If you have obtained a COVID-19 vaccine in another country, please review the [Drexel Vaccine Requirements](#) for more information on Drexel’s acceptance of a non-U.S.-authorized COVID vaccine.
- Make sure you are up to date with your routine vaccinations and the seasonal flu vaccine.

### Before Travel:

- Review current requirements for entry/required self-isolation in your destination. Many locations require documented proof of a negative SARS Co-V2 PCR test 72 hours or less before arrival. Other destinations may require proof of vaccination. If you have connecting flights, make note of any country requirements for transit travel. Be prepared to comply with all requirements.
  - Resources: [US Embassies COVID-19 information](#)  
<https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/world.php>;
  - Information from your airline carrier
- Effective 1/26/21 until further notice, the US government is requiring documentation of a negative COVID-19 test from a certified laboratory or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before the boarding of any flights to the United States from international

destinations. This applies to all travelers including US citizens. Travelers should investigate the availability of COVID-19 testing in their destination prior to their departure.

- Make a copy and/or take a picture of your COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card just in case you lose the original. Consider laminating the card once you are fully vaccinated.
- In the week leading up to your departure, continue to monitor closely the local COVID-19 transmission rate for your destination and any local/national public health requirements. Helpful resources:
  - [Pennsylvania State Travel Guidelines](#)
  - [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
  - <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>
- Plan for how you will access medical care in your destination should this be necessary. Verify that your health insurance will cover expenses there.
- If you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken the immune system, talk to your healthcare provider to discuss your activities and any additional precautions you should take.

**DO NOT TRAVEL if:**

- **You are sick with fever, cough, or any of the symptoms of COVID-19.**
- **You have recently tested positive for COVID-19.**
- **You have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the past 14 days (Even if fully vaccinated you may want to self monitor for 7 days before traveling).**
- **You are waiting for the results of a COVID viral test.**

For more information see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/when-to-delay-travel.html>

**During Travel – Take Steps to Protect Yourself and Others from COVID-19:**

- Wear a mask to keep your nose and mouth covered when in indoor settings with others who are either unvaccinated or whose vaccination status is unknown.
- Avoid close contact by staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from anyone who is not from your household.
- Avoid contact with anyone who is sick.
- Use the Drexel Health Checker app throughout your travel.

**For Air Travel:**

Air travel requires spending time in security lines and airport terminals, which can bring you in close contact with other people and frequently touched surfaces. Most viruses and other germs do not spread easily on flights because of how air circulates and is filtered on airplanes. If you are sick, DO NOT TRAVEL. Reschedule your flight.

- Wear a mask at all times in the airport/on the plane and you may want to consider wearing disposable gloves.
- Try to select non-stop options if possible or limit the number of stops.

Select a window seat, if possible. Some airlines are holding the middle seat empty, but this is not a requirement for airlines so check first if this is your preference.

### **For Lodging**

- Practice social distancing in all common areas.
- Wear a mask:
  - outside your room
  - in all indoor public spaces including elevators and stairwells
  - whenever interacting with people whose vaccination status is unknown

### **Local Transportation**

#### **If taking public transportation including Rail or Bus Travel:**

Traveling on buses and trains for any length of time may involve sitting or standing within 6 feet of others, which may increase your risk of getting COVID-19.

- Masks are required on all forms of public transit, including airplanes, trains, buses traveling into, within, and outside of the United States. Wear a face covering or mask at all times.
- Practice social distancing and avoid crowded areas as much as possible. Consider traveling at non-peak times, leaving seats/rows between you and other passengers if possible.
- Follow all posted guidance and instructions provided by transit authorities. Look for social distancing instructions or physical guides, such as signs indicating where to stand or sit to remain at least 6 feet apart from others.

#### **If using taxi or ride-share vehicles:**

- Wear a face covering or mask at all times.
- Limit the number of passengers in the vehicle to vaccinated travelers only.
- Sit in the back seat or as far away from the driver as possible.
- Improve ventilation by opening windows or adjusting the AC to non-recirculation mode.

**For more guidance see:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/using-transportation.html#PublicTransit>

### **Upon Arrival:**

- Complete any self-isolation requirements in place.
- Reach out to local contact for an update on required protocols for any visits, activities that you may have and ensure that you understand whom to contact if you begin to experience COVID-19 symptoms and the nearest medical facility to where you will stay/work.
- Continue to monitor news for information on transmission rates and local requirements.

### **Recommended precautions for activities**

- Meeting indoors without masks or physical distancing is possible with other fully-vaccinated people.

- Wear masks, maintain physical distancing and practice other preventative measures when meeting with unvaccinated people from multiple households or if you are unsure of the vaccination status of others.
- Avoid indoor medium to large-sized gatherings.; wear a mask for all outdoor large gatherings
- **Safest food options:** self-catering, delivery, take-out, curbside pick-up, outdoor / open-air eateries, etc.

**Post-Return Responsibilities:**

- Get tested with a viral test (either nucleic acid amplification or antigen) 3-5 days after your trip.
- Review and follow state, local and workplace recommendations after you return from travel. This will vary depending upon your destination.
  - PA state requirements:  
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>
  - CDC country recommendations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html>
- Monitor health and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Use the Drexel Health Checker app if you are going to campus after completing any self-isolation requirements.

**If any symptoms develop:**

- 1) Self-isolate and contact your primary care physician by phone for guidance and medical care
- 2) Contact [covid19health@drexel.edu](mailto:covid19health@drexel.edu) with your name and phone number

**Additional guidance is available on the [Drexel Response to Coronavirus](#) and the [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) websites.**