



## COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Fall 2020

As of May 28, 2020

### INTRODUCTION AND GOALS

The American College of the Mediterranean (ACM)'s goal is to provide a safe learning environment for its students, faculty, staff, and administrators. While the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects will continue to evolve both in the U.S and abroad, ACM is putting plans into place to best respond to the needs of its community. Through transparent protocols and measures, ACM aims to work towards a common goal of institutional preparedness that will inspire confidence for international travel amongst students and their families. The plan assumes that international borders are open, travel restrictions have been lifted, and on-the-ground restrictions continue to ease. ACM will look to national and local government officials and health professionals in France to inform its plan moving forward and as such, the plan will be updated as needed.

### PLAN

#### 1. Access to Testing/Protocols for Positive Tests/Exposure

Access to testing is paramount to providing a healthy and safe learning environment. To support safe entry and re-entry into the community, ACM plans to utilize testing in the following ways:

- *For students:* All students will be tested upon arrival, and thereafter upon showing COVID-19-related symptoms. If a student receives a positive test, ACM will enact quarantine and contact tracing protocols recommended by local health officials. Students who test positive will be able to continue their studies remotely, assuming their health allows them to do so.
- *For homestay hosts:* All ACM hosts will be tested prior to student arrival, and thereafter only upon showing COVID-19-related symptoms. If a host receives a positive test at any point during the semester, the residing student will be removed from the homestay and placed in an alternative homestay, residence hall, or apartment. ACM will work with the host and enact quarantine and contact tracing protocols, as necessary.
- *For faculty/staff/administrators:* All ACM administrators, faculty, and staff will be tested shortly before the student arrival and thereafter only upon showing COVID-19-related symptoms. If anyone receives a positive test, they will be put into quarantine and ACM will enact contact tracing protocols recommended by local health officials.
- *For outside vendors including internship agency personnel:* Any outside vendors with whom ACM contracts for student services will be pre-screened. In the event any vendor tests positive, they will be removed immediately from contact with any ACM students and personnel and will follow local quarantine and contact tracing requirements.

Exposure: If, through contact tracing or other means, someone in the ACM community has been identified as having been exposed to the virus, ACM will engage in the following measures:

- Support testing of individual
- Enforce social isolation, including but not limited to: Temporary relocation of housing (hotel) and/or remote course delivery

#### 2. Facilities Maintenance & Supporting Social Distancing

ACM will focus efforts on protocols that will help provide a safe learning environment for the entire community:

- Converting facilities to a low-density model, which includes:
  - Conducting on-site orientation virtually, with small student groups entering campus on an alternating basis
  - Limiting access to facilities to ACM students, faculty, staff, and administration
  - Taking temperature of all students, faculty, staff, and administration prior to entry into facilities
  - Desks in all classrooms will be placed six feet apart. Courses with higher enrollments will use larger classrooms. ACM will place a cap on course enrollments when needed to ensure adequate social distancing.
  - Modifying course schedule to reduce course overlap/student traffic and to allow longer breaks between classes (for cleaning purposes)
  - Restricting student capacity in common areas/study areas by removing chairs/tables to ensure proper physical distancing; Identify allowable occupancy to control workflow and/or establish maximum attendance.
  - Placing markers on the floors to indicate appropriate social distancing
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), enhanced cleaning protocols, and reinforcing good hygiene
  - ACM will enforce any local/national government PPE requirements for individuals in ACM facilities. Whether required or not, free PPE will be provided to all ACM personnel and students.
  - All building facilities will be cleaned and disinfected twice daily
  - Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected between class sessions (class schedules will be modified to have longer breaks between classes and allow time for cleaning rotations)
  - Hand sanitizers will be available in all facilities, including entrances, common areas, and classrooms
  - Signage will be posted throughout facilities (reinforcing good hygiene, awareness of COVID-19 symptoms, protocols to follow, etc.)

### **3. Providing Clear Guidelines for Homestays/Housing**

- With some exceptions, ACM will restrict the number of students per homestay to one
- ACM will pre-screen each host and require them to follow a set of guidelines for keeping their home clean and disinfected
- Hosts and students will be required to follow guidance on social distancing and PPE

### **4. Engaging and Flexible Academic Structure**

- Courses are designed with a flexible structure, and are ready to go remote at any moment

### **5. Updated Policies**

- To protect students, their peers, and others around them, ACM may prohibit students from traveling outside a certain geographic location or otherwise be subjected to local quarantine regulations upon return to campus
- Additional policies, restrictions, and requirements may arise as needed

### **6. Ongoing Communication with ACM Community**

Paramount to this plan is the constant communication ACM pledges to execute as necessary, including contacting a student and their family in the event of a positive student test or positive host test. Likewise, ACM's COVID-19 Plan and further updates to it will be available on ACM's website at [www.ACMFrance.org](http://www.ACMFrance.org).