



The American College of the Mediterranean & The Institute for American Universities (ACM-IAU)

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Updated December 2021

INTRODUCTION AND GOALS

ACM-IAU's goal is to provide a safe learning environment for its students, faculty, staff, and administrators. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, ACM-IAU is implementing plans to best respond to the needs of its community. Through transparent protocols and measures, ACM-IAU aims towards a common goal of institutional preparedness that will inspire confidence for international travel amongst partner universities, students, and families. The plan assumes that international borders are open, travel restrictions have been loosened, and on-the-ground restrictions continue to ease. ACM-IAU will reevaluate and update the plan on an ongoing basis using the guidance of national and local government officials and health professionals in France and Spain. *It is important to note that the governments around the world are continuously updating regulations, local restrictions, and entry protocols as the COVID-19 situation evolves. As these changes are made, ACM-IAU will continue to update policies and protocols in accordance with these adjustments.*

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-IAU plans to utilize testing in the following ways for those who are both fully vaccinated (individuals are considered fully vaccinated according to the following timeline: 14 days after the 2nd injection for dual-injection vaccines (Pfizer / Comirnaty, Moderna, AstraZeneca / Vaxzevria/Covishield); 28 days after the injection for vaccines with a single injection (Johnson & Johnson).

For students:

Prior to Arrival: ACM-IAU is mandating that all participants are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This mandate is applied to program participants starting with our January term 2022 programs and beyond. Students are required to submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination to ACM-IAU prior to the program start date.

- **For France:** When boarding a direct flight to France, all students should adhere to the entry requirements related to the country from which students are traveling ("green," "amber," "red," or "scarlet" country list; country lists can be found at the bottom of the page [here](#)). Students traveling from an "orange" country, which includes

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the United States, who are fully vaccinated will need to present proof of vaccination, [a sworn statement](#), and proof of a negative COVID-19 test (PCR or antigen) taken **within 48 hours prior to boarding**. This is a mandate by the French government. It is highly recommended that students avoid booking flights that have layovers in a country other than France (layovers within France are OK). Students are responsible for the cost of all testing related to entry requirements, obtaining a French health pass, as well as the cost of testing required to return to their home country.

- Additionally, all individuals will need a COVID-19 booster shot between five and seven months after their second COVID-19 vaccine dose to keep their French Health Pass (*passé sanitaire*) active. This new requirement goes into place on January 15, 2022. If you received your second COVID-19 vaccination between 5 and 7 months ago, IAU is **strongly recommending** that you receive a COVID-19 booster prior to departure to France. While booster shots are available in France for anyone aged 18 years or older, we recommend that you obtain the booster vaccine prior to your arrival in France to facilitate the smoothest entry possible. *Remember, students are eligible to [apply for a French health pass online](#) once they receive their long stay student visa. Make sure to apply for the French health pass as soon as you receive your student visa.*
- **For Spain:** Effective September 6, 2021, U.S. citizens can travel from the United States to Spain if they show **proof of vaccination**. Please read more detailed information on the [Spain Ministry of Health's website](#). Additionally, students traveling from the United States will need to present the QR code generated through the [Spain Travel Health Portal](#) prior to boarding their flight to enter Spain. U.S. citizens who are travelling to Spain from a country that is not the United States should make sure they follow the guidance published by Spanish authorities on their local [Spain Embassy website](#). It is highly recommended that students avoid booking flights that have layovers in a country other than Spain (layovers within Spain are OK). Students are responsible for the cost of all testing related to entry requirements as well as the cost of testing required to return to their home country.
- Students who are already in-country prior to the arrival date (not arriving via plane on the program arrival date) will be required to take a COVID-19 antigen (rapid) test and present negative results within five days of arrival and before entering ACM-IAU facilities or participating in any ACM-IAU events.
- **After Arrival:** All students will undergo COVID-19 antigen (rapid) testing 10 days after the program start date. After the ten-day mark, students will be tested upon showing COVID-19-related symptoms. There is no self-isolation period required in France and Spain for students regardless of vaccination status.
 - If a student receives a positive test, ACM-IAU will enact quarantine and contact tracing protocols recommended by local health officials and the student will be required to remain in quarantine until cleared by a health professional. Students may be relocated during the quarantine, and if so, students will not incur any costs. Students who test positive will be able to continue their studies remotely, assuming their health allows them to do so.
- **After Program:** Students returning to their home country at the end of the program may be required to present a negative COVID-19 test upon entry. Students returning to the United States at the end of their program will be required to present a negative COVID-19 viral test result taken no more than 1 day before travel from their host country. Students will be responsible for the cost of this test. ACM-IAU will facilitate extended housing arrangements and will support students 24/7 until they are able to depart if students are not able to present a negative test result within this time frame and are not able to travel on their intended departure date. Students will be responsible for the cost of this extended housing reservation.
- **For homestay hosts:** All ACM-IAU hosts will be tested within 72 hours prior to the students' 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 at no cost to the student. ACM-IAU will work with the host, enact quarantine, and contact tracing protocols, as necessary.

- o **For faculty/staff/administrators:** All ACM-IAU administrators, faculty, and staff will be tested within 72 hours prior to the students' arrival and thereafter only upon showing COVID-19-related symptoms. If anyone receives a positive test, IAU will enact quarantine and contact tracing protocols recommended by local health officials.
- o **For outside vendors including internship agency personnel:** Any outside vendors with whom ACM-IAU 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-IAU students and personnel.

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

- Support testing of individual
- Enforce physical isolation, including but not limited to:
 - o Temporary relocation of housing (hotel)
 - o Remote course delivery

Students, faculty, staff, and host families in France are strongly encouraged to download and activate the STOPCovid app (contact tracing app used by the French Government).

2. Vaccines

The U.S. [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) encourages all international travelers to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to travel. To continue to support the health and safety of the IAU communities abroad, IAU is mandating that all participants are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This mandate is applied to program participants starting with our January term 2022 programs and beyond. ACM-IAU also highly encourages ACM-IAU faculty, staff, administrators, and homestay hosts abroad to obtain a vaccine when it becomes available to them. Additionally, ACM-IAU is **strongly recommending** that students receive a COVID-19 booster prior to departure to France or Spain to facilitate the smoothest entry possible. In France, a COVID-19 booster dose is required between five and seven months after an individual's second COVID-19 vaccine dose to keep their French Health Pass (*passé sanitaire*) active. This new requirement goes into place on January 15, 2022. Below is an overview of the most recent regulations related to vaccination status:

FRANCE

Please see below for entry information for both vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers:

- When boarding a direct flight to France, all students should adhere to the entry requirements related to the country from which students are traveling ("green," "amber," "red," or "scarlet" country list; country lists can be found at the bottom of the page [here](#)). Students traveling from an "orange" country, which includes the United States, who are fully vaccinated will need to present proof of vaccination, [a sworn statement](#), and proof of a negative COVID-19 test (PCR or antigen) taken within 48 hours prior to boarding. This is a mandate by the French government. More information regarding this requirement can be found [here](#). It is highly recommended that students avoid booking flights that have layovers in a country other than France (layovers within France are OK). Students are responsible for the cost of all testing related to entry requirements, obtaining a French health pass, as well as the cost of testing required to return to their home country.

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- Beginning August 9, 2021 travelers will need to have a “passe sanitaire” or “health pass” to access any cultural and entertainment sites, such as cinemas, museums, theaters, festivals, amusement parks, cafes, restaurants, malls, hospitals. This also includes accessing public transportation, including long-distance trains, buses, and air travel. This will include outdoor dining. A health pass is proof of vaccination. We advise that students keep a picture or pdf of their CDC proof of vaccination in their mobile device and carry the original with them. On August 10, the French government announced the procedure for how the CDC vaccination cards can be turned into a health pass in France. Please see the information on [How to Get a French Health Pass](#) for instructions for vaccinated individuals. Students are responsible for the cost of all testing related to entry requirements, obtaining a French health pass, as well as the cost of testing required to return to their home country.
- Additionally, as of November 25, 2021, all individuals will need a COVID-19 booster shot between five and seven months after their second COVID-19 vaccine dose to keep their French Health Pass (*passe sanitaire*) active. This new requirement goes into place on January 15, 2022. If you received your second COVID-19 vaccination between 5 and 7 months ago, IAU is **strongly recommending** that you receive a COVID-19 booster prior to departure to France. While booster shots are available in France for anyone aged 18 years or older, we recommend that you obtain the booster vaccine prior to your arrival in France to facilitate the smoothest entry possible. *Remember, students are eligible to [apply for a French health pass online](#) once they receive their long stay student visa. Make sure to apply for the French health pass as soon as you receive your student visa.*

See the full [update for U.S. students from Campus France](#) and the [U.S. Embassy of France](#) outlining this new guidance.

SPAIN

Please see below for entry information for vaccinated travelers:

- Effective September 6, 2021, U.S. citizens can travel from the United States to Spain if they show **proof of vaccination**. Please read more detailed information on the [Spain Ministry of Health’s website](#). Additionally, students traveling from the United States will need to present the QR code generated through the [Spain Travel Health Portal](#) prior to boarding their flight to enter Spain. It is highly recommended that students avoid booking flights that have layovers in a country other than Spain (layovers within Spain are OK). Students are responsible for the cost of all testing related to entry requirements as well as the cost of testing required to return to their home country.
- U.S. citizens who are travelling to Spain from a country that is not the United States should make sure they follow the guidance published by Spanish authorities on their local [Spain Embassy website](#).
- Additionally, ACM-IAU is **strongly recommending** that students receive a COVID-19 booster prior to departure to Spain to facilitate the smoothest entry possible.

3. Facilities Maintenance, Supporting Physical Distancing and Wellness Protocols

ACM-IAU 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:
 - Limiting access to facilities to only ACM-IAU students, faculty, staff, and administration. Outside visitors will not be permitted without prior approval from the on-site administration.

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- Desks in all classrooms will be placed six feet apart. Courses with higher enrollments will use larger classrooms. ACM-IAU will place a cap on course enrollments when needed to ensure adequate social distancing.
- Modifying course schedules as needed to reduce course overlap/student traffic and to allow longer breaks between classes (for cleaning purposes).
- Reducing student capacity in common areas 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.
- Ongoing health monitoring of the ACM-IAU community
 - Students, faculty, and staff should self-monitor their well-being on a daily basis. Those experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms should self-isolate immediately and contact the IAU administration for support.
 - Enhanced cleaning protocols and supporting good hygiene.
 - All building facilities will be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis.
 - Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected between class sessions (class schedules will be modified as needed to 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.).
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements
 - Students are advised to bring a thermometer with them upon arrival for temperature monitoring.
 - ACM-IAU will enforce any local/national government PPE requirements for individuals in ACM-IAU facilities.
 - Face masks will be required at all times while inside ACM-IAU facilities. ACM-IAU will make required PPE available to personnel and students.

4. Providing Clear Guidelines for Homestays/Housing

- Homestays:
 - ACM-IAU 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 physical distancing and PPE.
 - Students will not be permitted to bring visitors to their accommodations.
- Shared Apartments:
 - Each student will receive their own copy of COVID-19 protocols and health-related information, and protocols will be posted in each apartment.
 - Students will not be permitted to bring visitors to their accommodations.

5. Engaging and Flexible Academic Structure

- Courses are designed with a flexible structure and can be transitioned to hybrid or remote instruction at any moment.

6. Updated Policies

- To protect students, their peers, and others around them, ACM-IAU may prohibit students from traveling outside a certain geographic area. Otherwise, students may be subjected to local quarantine regulations upon return to campus.
- ACM-IAU will continue to monitor the health and safety situation abroad and may implement policies, restrictions, and requirements to protect the well-being of the ACM-IAU community.

7. Ongoing Communication with ACM-IAU Community

Paramount to this plan is the constant communication ACM-IAU pledges to execute, as necessary. The ACM-IAU's Dean's Council meets weekly to discuss updates regarding local restrictions and if/how these may affect the ACM-IAU's policies and protocols. These updates are shared with students as well as with partners. Below is an overview of ACM-IAU's communication plan in relation to COVID-19:

- *If a student tests positive for COVID-19:* If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the student's home institution and emergency contact will be notified immediately, outlining a plan for medical care, testing, self-isolation/meal delivery, remote learning, and re-entry into the ACM-IAU community. All other partners will be notified that a confirmed case was discovered within the community, with no identifying details disclosed. Institutions will also be notified if the confirmed positive case impacts in-person instruction of their students (should their students' courses temporarily be held remotely).
- *If a student is quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19:* If a student is quarantined due to suspected exposure to COVID-19, the home institution will be notified immediately and will be provided the plan for testing, remote learning, and when in-person instruction will resume.
- *If a students' academic courses are temporarily held remotely:* If a students' courses are held remotely due to suspected exposure of a staff/faculty member or classmate, the home institution will be notified immediately and will be provided with the plan for remote learning as well as when in-person instruction will resume.

ACM-IAU's COVID-19 Plan and further updates to it will be available on IAU's website (www.iau.edu) and ACM's website (www.acmfrance.org).