The American College of the Mediterranean & The Institute for American Universities

(ACM-IAU)

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Updated May 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 and its effects will continue to evolve, ACM-IAU is putting plans into place to best respond to the needs of its community. Through transparent protocols and measures, ACM-IAU aims to work 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 currently evaluating how entry protocols and local COVID-19 measures may be changed for those who are partially and fully vaccinated against COVID-19. 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 students:
    - Prior to Arrival: ACM-IAU requires that students arriving on-site present a negative COVID-19 test that is taken prior to departure to their site abroad. This requirement is also mandated by the local authorities and is mainly managed by the airlines:
        - When boarding a direct flight to **France**, all students will need to present a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of ***departure to*** France. This is a mandate by the French government and is a requirement for entering France from the United States. It is therefore highly recommended that students avoid booking flights that have layovers in a country other than France—students should fly directly from the

United States to France (layovers within France are OK). Students are responsible for the cost of this test.

- When boarding a direct flight to **Spain**, all students will need to present a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours *prior to arrival* in Spain. This is a mandate by the Spanish government and is a requirement for entering Spain from the United States. It is therefore highly recommended that students avoid booking flights that have layovers in a country other than Spain—students should fly directly from the United States to Spain (layovers within Spain are OK). Students are responsible for the cost of this test.

o 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 test and present negative results within five days of arrival and before entering ACM-IAU facilities or participating in any ACM-IAU events.

o Upon Arrival:
- For France, all visitors will be required to self-isolate for seven days upon arrival and a PCR test is required at the end of this period. This protocol may change for fully vaccinated individuals.
- For Spain, there is no self-isolation period, and therefore ACM-IAU plans to test all participants within two weeks of the program start date. This protocol may change for fully vaccinated individuals.

o After the two-week mark, students will be tested upon showing COVID-19-related symptoms.

o 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.

o Students returning to the United States at the end of their program will be required to present a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of departure from the host country. Students will be responsible for the cost of this test. If students are not able to present a negative test result within this time frame and are therefore not able to travel on their intended departure date, ACM-IAU will facilitate extended housing arrangements and will support students 24/7 until they are able to depart. 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 and enact quarantine and contact tracing protocols, as necessary.

- 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, they will be put into quarantine and follow contact tracing protocols recommended by local health officials.

- 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:
  - Temporary relocation of housing (hotel)
  - 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. While vaccinations are not required for students in order to participate in an ACM-IAU program, ACM-IAU highly encourages students to be fully vaccinated prior to participating since local health regulations continue to change and such regulations may favor those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. ACM-IAU also highly encourages ACM-IAU faculty, staff, administrators, and homestay hosts abroad to obtain a vaccine when it becomes available to them.

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:
  - Conducting on-site orientation virtually, with small student groups entering campus on an alternating basis.
  - 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.
  - 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).
  - 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.
- Ongoing health monitoring of the ACM-IAU community
  - Students, faculty, and staff will be required to take their temperature on a daily basis prior to coming to ACM-IAU.

- o Those with elevated temperatures will be required to self-isolate and ACM-IAU will follow up with health recommendations including testing protocols.
- o Enhanced cleaning protocols and supporting good hygiene.
- o All building facilities will be cleaned and disinfected twice daily.
- o Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected between class sessions (class schedules will be modified as needed to allow time for cleaning rotations).
- o Hand sanitizers will be available in all facilities, including entrances, common areas, and classrooms.
- o Signage will be posted throughout facilities (reinforcing good hygiene, awareness of COVID-19 symptoms, protocols to follow, etc.).

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements

  - o Upon arrival, students will receive a Welcome Kit, which will include a cloth face mask, a COVID-19 Student Preparedness Guide, a pair of gloves, and a small bottle of hand sanitizer. Students are advised to bring a thermometer with them to the program for temperature monitoring.
  - o ACM-IAU will enforce any local/national government PPE requirements for individuals in ACM-IAU facilities. Therefore, 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:
  - o Each student will have their own bedroom.
  - o ACM-IAU will pre-screen each host and require them to follow a set of guidelines for keeping their home clean and disinfected.
  - o Hosts and students will be required to follow guidance on physical distancing and PPE.
  - o Students will not be permitted to bring visitors to their accommodations.
- Shared Apartments:
  - o Apartment capacities will be limited to 4 students maximum, and each student will have their own room.
  - o Each student will receive their own copy of COVID-19 protocols and health-related information, and protocols will be posted in each apartment.
  - o 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 in an effort 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).