Policy on University-connected Travel for Faculty, Staff, and Students: Spring/Summer 2021
March 10, 2021 Update

Avoiding travel is one of the best ways to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. At the same time, the university recognizes that some travel may be necessary in connection with requirements for degree completion or for research activities. This policy updates the travel policy dated October 21, 2020. In addition to the guidance below, any additional restrictions or procedures at your school or unit beyond the university’s policy also should be followed.

Tufts is fundamentally continuing its broad essential-only travel policy throughout the summer. However, recognizing that, with vaccines becoming more available within the US (and elsewhere) and the differential implications of summer travel on the health and safety of our communities on campus, the university is expanding its definition of “essential” travel.

Should travel be approved, all travelers must adhere to policies of the states/localities they are visiting—including any and all quarantine/isolation/stay-at home advisories/or shelter in place orders, should they arise.

We will continue to monitor the public health situation and government travel advisories and adjust our guidance accordingly should the situation change. Please note that based on CDC or Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines and or any possible future increase in incident COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth, the United States or world-wide (i.e., due to new and emerging variants), our policy may change without advance notice.

As of March 8, 2021:

- **All domestic travel will be permitted**, with the condition that upon return to campus, Tufts travelers must abide by Massachusetts’ travel policy and Tufts’ requirements described below. University-affiliated group travel and school or unit-organized domestic programs (in which activity is conducted under a single program i.e., with significant university involvement, such as credit or operational support in addition to financial support) will require review and approval by the relevant Dean, EAD or their designee and the Office of the Infection Control Health Director (at OccHealth@tufts.edu) prior to the start of the program, to ensure that standard CDC-recommended precautions are being implemented (e.g., social distancing, masking, cleaning/hygiene/organization of space at the destination locations). Travelers in group and school or unit-organized domestic programs will be required to acknowledge and sign a COVID-19 Traveler pledge and an Assumption of Risk and General Release. Any additional school or unit policies or restrictions on travel will continue to apply.

- **International travel by university-affiliated groups and school/unit-organized programs** will not be permitted to travel during the summer of 2021. Individual international travel
by faculty, staff or students will be allowed on an “essential only” basis, as determined by
the Dean (or their designee) of the school or unit based on the following criteria:
  o The activity (research, internship, study, etc.) cannot be done remotely
  o Postponement would cause significant harm or damage (e.g., compromise research
    results, prevent degree completion, etc.)
  o The activity is needed for degree completion/capstone or for career or tenure
    advancement

For international travel, the rapidly changing circumstances inherent in the COVID-19
situation around the world give rise to risks related to international travel above and
beyond those inherent in domestic travel. If circumstances change when a traveler is in
country, they may become stranded indefinitely (either because of quarantines and other
restrictions, lack of access to testing, or lack of means of transportation to return home), at
potentially significant personal and financial cost. Moreover, if travelers became ill, access
to healthcare may be limited. In both situations, the support Tufts would be able to offer
would be limited, as costs would not be covered by insurance or Tufts. And as a civically-
 minded university, it is our responsibility also to consider the burden travel by Tufts
affiliates may impose in host countries – from endangering local populations to taking
resources that would be used better to care for their own communities.

• All international travelers will be required to acknowledge and sign a COVID-19 Traveler
pledge and an Assumption of Risk and General Release and to abide by Massachusetts’
travel policy and Tufts’ requirements described below upon return. All international
travelers are also highly encouraged to book through the university’s preferred travel
provider, Travel Collaborative and to try to find airlines, hotels or rentals that are offering
flexible cancellation and refund policies.

• All travel for the purpose of conducting research activities (domestic or international) must
be reviewed and approved by the Integrative Safety Committee.

Additional travel requirements:

• For students (undergraduate and graduate):
  o International travel must adhere to the existing International Travel Policy. Students
    traveling internationally must obtain approval from the International Travel Review
    Committee for travel to countries with a US Department of State Level 3 rating and
    higher (currently the entire world) and must register their travel in the Tufts Travel
    Registry.

• For faculty and staff:
Faculty and staff are required to register their international travel in the Tufts Travel Registry.

Most Tufts work-related travel remains subject to the no discretionary spending directive, which remains in effect; however, exceptions may be granted by school deans when travel is essential. A notification of any staff/faculty international travel on non-sponsored funds will be sent to the appropriate EAD to account for potential for financial exposure.

**Requirements upon return from out-of-region travel (domestic or international)**

Tufts faculty, staff and students must abide by Massachusetts’ travel policy (either remain in quarantine for 10 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result administered within 72 hours of arrival) as well as Tufts’ requirements. This means that travelers returning from out-of-region may not come to campus except for surveillance testing until they have completed quarantine or have received a negative COVID-19 test result—and in some cases (e.g., student onboarding or visitors), 2 tests. Faculty, staff and students who participate in routine COVID-19 surveillance testing and those who need to come to campus to work but are not in surveillance testing may test immediately on return from travel but must wait for a negative result before returning to campus to work.

Travelers working exclusively remotely are not eligible for Tufts’ COVID-19 testing but are still required to abide by Massachusetts’ rules.