

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

This policy updates the University travel policy dated March 12, 2021 **to allow for travel within the United States** beginning on June 1, 2021. Tufts' essential-only travel policy, permitting travel **for research and scholarly activities in limited circumstances only**, will remain in place for university-related international travel through the summer. In addition to the university-wide guidance outlined below, any school or unit-specific policies, procedures or restrictions must be followed.

Please note that 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. 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.

As of June 1, 2021:

1) Domestic travel

Domestic travel for university-related purposes will be permitted. All travelers are advised to follow [CDC guidance on domestic travel](#), as well as adhere to policies of the states/localities they are visiting—including all quarantine/isolation/stay-at home advisories/or shelter in place orders, should they arise. Domestic travel for research purposes no longer requires prior approval of the Integrative Safety Committee (ISC); travelers are expected, however, to following the [CDC's safe travel guidance](#) to protect themselves and others during the conduct of research.

Upon return to campus, all travelers must abide by Tufts' requirements described in 3) below.

2) International travel

International travel by university-affiliated groups (including student groups) and school/unit-organized programs will not be permitted during the summer of 2021. Individual international travel by faculty, staff or students for university-related purposes will be allowed on an “*essential only*” basis, as determined by the [Dean \(or their designee\) of the school or unit](#) and must meet the following three criteria:

- The activity (research, internship, study, etc.) cannot be done remotely;
- Postponement would cause significant harm or damage (e.g., compromise research results, prevent degree completion, etc.);
- 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. While Tufts Travel Medical insurance is able to provide coverage for acute medical situations (including acute illness from COVID-19), coverage for quarantines, travel delays, as well as evacuation due to airport closures or other security incidents would not be covered. Moreover, as a civically-minded university, it is our responsibility 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.

In addition:

- a) **Approval of Integrative Safety Committee.** All international travel for the purpose of conducting research activities must be reviewed and approved by the [Integrative Safety Committee](#) (ISC).
- b) **International travel by undergraduate and graduate students** 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 () and must register their travel in the [Tufts Travel Registry](#).
- c) Faculty and staff are required to register their international travel in the [Tufts Travel Registry](#).
- d) **All international travelers will be required** to acknowledge and sign a COVID-19 Traveler pledge and an Assumption of Risk and General Release (which is deployed when registering your travel with the Tufts Travel Registry) and to abide by Tufts' requirements described 3) 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.

Please consult the [international travel process flowchart](#) for guidance on requirements for approval for university-related international travel.

3) Return from out-of-region travel (domestic or international)

Upon return from travel—both university-related and personal—Tufts faculty, staff and students must abide by [Tufts' requirements](#). This means that:

- a) Upon returning to campus after traveling to domestic out-of-region destinations, travelers may not come to campus (except for surveillance testing) until they obtain a negative COVID-19 test result. Beginning at the end of June/beginning of July, returning travelers will be able to get the BinaxNow test and receive results within 15 minutes; if the result is negative, they will be able to resume normal campus activities immediately. Travelers must also take a second test (and receive a negative result) 3 – 4 days after the first and may return to their normal testing cadence if the second test is also negative.
- b) Travelers returning to campus from an international (non-U.S.) destination must follow [CDC guidance on international travel](#) before coming to campus: fully vaccinated travelers must get tested 3-5 days after travel and may not come to campus (except for surveillance testing) until they have received a negative result. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated travelers must self-quarantine for 10 days after travel or get tested 3-5 days after travel and self-quarantine for a full 7 days even if the result is negative.

4) Precautions while traveling

Traveling – along with other factors - can significantly increase your risk of exposure, especially if you are unvaccinated. If you do travel, we urge you to exercise caution.

We urge you to:

- Delay travel until you are fully vaccinated. If you are not vaccinated, you are more likely to get and spread COVID-19. If you are unvaccinated and must travel, CDC guidance recommends getting tested within 1-3 days of your trip in addition to following the basic precautions listed below while traveling.
- Monitor both [domestic](#) and [international destinations](#) where COVID-19 is present, as well as information, travel warnings, health advisories, travel and movement restrictions (e.g., use of public transportation, border closings, screening procedures at airports/stations, etc.) and quarantine requirements and conditions at your destination. These do change frequently. The [CDC website](#), as well as the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](#), [U.S. Department of State](#), and [International SOS](#) provide useful updated information. Johns Hopkins University's [Center for Systems Science and Engineering](#) also has an excellent site with daily updates of cases worldwide.
- Take the basic precautions [recommended by the CDC](#) while you travel. Your risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19 depends on your own behavior as well as your travel pattern, destination or means of transportation. Therefore, you should be sure to:
 - Avoid close contact with sick people
 - Distance yourself from others—staying at least 6 feet away to prevent exposure through coughing—and avoid crowds
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a mask

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60 percent to 95 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Do not share drinks/food/cigarettes, utensils, vaping products, etc.

Please note that the CDC requires that [masks be worn](#) on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.