

Policy on University-connected Travel for Faculty, Staff, and Students: Fall 2021

This document summarizes the University's travel policy for fall 2021 and supersedes the spring/summer 2021 policy that has been in effect since August 16, 2021. In addition to this 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 is 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.

1) Domestic travel

Domestic travel for university-related purposes is 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. Travelers are expected to follow 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 is permitted following review by the International Travel Safety Committee (ITRC).

Individual international travel by faculty, staff or students for university-related purposes is allowed. The "*essential only*" requirement no longer applies; however, due to the heightened risks of international travel, faculty, staff, and students seeking to travel internationally on university-related business must still obtain explicit approval from the [Dean \(or their designee\) of the school or unit](#).

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.

Additional Requirements:

- a) **Approval of [Integrative Safety Committee \(ISC\)](#).** This is required for all international human subjects research and domestic [high risk human subjects research](#).
- 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 must 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 under 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 flow chart](#) for guidance on requirements for approval for university-related international travel.

3) Return from travel—testing

Upon return from travel—both university-related and personal—Tufts faculty, staff, and students must abide by [Tufts' requirements](#). This means that, upon return from travel, all travelers should be tested as soon as they return and then resume their normal testing cadence. Upon return, vaccinated, asymptomatic travelers may resume normal campus activities without waiting for the result of a test. Any returning traveler with symptoms that could be COVID-19 must seek medical attention from Tufts Health Services or their primary care physician and receive a negative test prior to resuming on-campus activities. At all times upon return, individuals must follow all COVID-19 policies in place at the time.

Travelers who are not vaccinated are required upon return from travel to:

- Either
 - Get tested with a [viral test](#) 3-5 days after arrival in the United States **AND** stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel, even if the test is negative. OR
 - Stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel if choosing not to be tested for COVID-19.

- Isolate themselves if the test is positive in order to avoid infecting others.
- Avoid being around people who are at [increased risk for severe illness](#) for 14 days, whether they get tested or not.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if they develop symptoms.
- Follow all [state and local](#) recommendations or requirements.

For detailed information, consult the [Testing at Tufts](#) site.

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 (this means 2 weeks after completion of a primary series), and, if you are eligible, obtain a booster. 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. Individual countries and/or airlines may have different requirements.
- 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.