

## Faculty-led COVID Risk Mitigation Guidelines

The RIT Education Abroad office is constantly monitoring how COVID-19 is affecting international travel, with student safety as our top priority. Outlined below are the guidelines for leading a faculty-led or international research program. Since the COVID pandemic remains a fluid situation and local conditions may vary widely, faculty and students should be advised that protocols and procedures may change at any time, including while at the international location.

**As a reminder, all faculty-led programs already have several safety checks and balances built into them. For example, all students and faculty receive international health insurance and security assistance through On Call. In addition, all students sign waivers to participate, attend pre-departure, faculty are provided with participant emergency contact information, and faculty attend mandatory training.**

**RIT Education Abroad has implemented several additional COVID risk mitigation strategies, including:**

- Students are required to read and sign an updated liability and health statement to ensure they understand and accept the added risks of studying abroad during a pandemic.
- Communicating directly with students that if they have pre-existing conditions they may be more at risk and other possible risks that may impact their experience while abroad (travel interruptions, CDC/local guidelines such as testing requirements, wearing masks, curfews).
- Encouraging students to purchase additional travel insurance, such as Cancel for Any Reason, to reduce financial burden if travel is interrupted.
- Students are required to attend pre-departure training, which includes updated COVID safety guidelines and precautions.

**For the foreseeable future, all Faculty-led programs must:**

- Comply with COVID regulations and guidelines when necessary (for example, host country testing and quarantine requirements, third party provider COVID guidelines, etc.).
- Program leaders assume responsibility for staying current with COVID related travel advisories and regulations and informing students of any specific requirements when necessary.
- Have a COVID contingency plan to ensure all students complete academic requirements in the event they have to quarantine or the program is interrupted due to COVID related issues.
- A COVID emergency fund budget approved by the faculty director's college and RIT Global in the event a faculty director needs to spend additional funds due to mandated quarantine or other related COVID events.

**Recommendations to include in COVID contingency plan:**

- Identify a 2nd program leader or host country partner who can assist in the event the primary faculty director is required to quarantine while abroad.
- An alternative housing plan in case a participant needs to quarantine.
- Advise students to bring PPE such as masks, COVID tests, hand sanitizer, and thermometers.
- Advise students to bring laptops abroad in case they have to complete the course remotely.