



Risk Mitigation – AU Nairobi Center

The safety and security of the AU community at AU Centers Abroad is a paramount priority, and the safeguards in this plan are designed to mitigate the risk to members of our community of contracting COVID-19 and transmitting it to others. The following health and safety measures are in effect for Fall 2021 AU Nairobi programs:

COVID-19 Vaccinations: All students, faculty, staff are vaccinated against COVID-19. Please refer to the [Health and Safety Directive on Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination](#) for further information.

Testing: The Kenyan government requires all travelers obtain a negative PCR test 96 hours prior to arrival in Kenya. All students will be required to take two COVID tests upon arrival in Nairobi during orientation. This testing will be arranged by local AU Nairobi staff and the cost is covered by AU. Once on site, students, faculty, and staff will be required to be tested for COVID-19 about every two weeks, and before and after excursions. Given COVID-19 variants, all fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff, may be subject to periodic surveillance testing at the university's discretion. Any person experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, must get a COVID-19 test. Please refer to the [Health and Safety Directive on COVID-19 Exposure, Positive Test, or Suspected Infection](#) for further information.

Health and Safety Pledge/Acknowledgment: All students will be required to sign a Health and Safety Pledge that they will abide by all health and safety regulations imposed by the University, the AU Nairobi Center, and national and local government directives regarding COVID-19 restrictions, regulations, and isolation and quarantine procedures.

Daily Screening: All faculty, staff and students are expected to follow Kenyan government directives by using the hand sanitizing stations and checking body temperatures upon entering the AU Nairobi Center, self-monitoring for symptoms, and getting a test if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

If body temperature is higher than 37.5 °C, or someone has a persistent cough or other flu-like symptoms, entry to the AU Nairobi Center is denied, and the potentially ill person will be instructed to be tested for COVID-19, isolate at home, and follow the instructions of medical professionals.

Medical Care: Students can receive medical care for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related medical needs at [Nairobi Hospital](#), [Aga Khan Hospital](#), or at various recommended Nairobi clinics using Cigna medical insurance or ACE emergency insurance, both provided by the AU

Nairobi program. Students do not need to make a copayment to be seen and costs for medical care are minimal or free. We recommend students keep their US based medical insurance while abroad.

Contact Tracing: Any student, faculty, and staff member must report COVID-19 exposure/positive test result to the AU Nairobi Director. The AU Nairobi Director will inform and advise close contacts within the program, such as other students, staff, and faculty.

Face Coverings: Faculty, staff, and students are expected to use and bring their own face coverings. Disposable face coverings will be provided for individuals who forget or lose their face coverings. In accordance with the university's [Health and Safety Directive on Face Coverings](#), all individuals will be required to always wear face coverings over their mouths and noses while indoors at the AU Nairobi Center or on program sponsored activities except when in their home, when eating or drinking, and in other limited circumstances. Face shields do not fulfill the face covering requirement. Students will also be expected to wear face coverings as required by local government health directives. When outdoors, all individuals must use a face covering when unable to maintain a social distance of 1.5 meters.

Personal Health Precautions: In addition to wearing face coverings as noted, students, faculty, and staff are expected to exercise personal health precautions through practicing frequent hand washing and respiratory etiquette, monitoring their own health and taking their temperature daily, and seeking medical care if symptoms warrant. These precautions not only reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection but also the spread of infectious disease in general. Students, faculty, and staff with signs or symptoms of infectious illness should stay home and seek medical care.

Positive Test Reporting and Self-Isolation: Students who test positive for COVID-19 must notify the university by submitting a [Self-Report Form](#) and by contacting AU Nairobi staff. Students will be required to follow local government guidance regarding self-isolation. The person who tests positive must isolate for 10 days and then take another COVID test. If symptoms have not continued, the person can resume normal activities after a negative test on the tenth day.

If a student, faculty member, or a staff member has been in close physical contact with the student and tests positive, AU Nairobi will take the following steps:

- All affected AU Nairobi classes will immediately move to an online platform for a period of two weeks. During this period, there will be minimum or no contact between and among students, faculty, and staff.
- The affected student will be promptly isolated and the other individuals who have been in close contact will be tested and isolated/quarantined, as necessary. Any quarantined person(s) will be equipped with a temperature gun and oximeter to monitor and report their temperature to AU Nairobi staff at least twice a day. Should one develop any

symptoms associated with COVID, the program would organize for the student(s) to see a health specialist.

- **Individuals who test positive for COVID-19** must self-isolate until these conditions are met: 1) at least ten (10) days have passed since the initial onset of symptoms, unless a longer period of self-isolation is necessary as directed by their health care provider; and 2) at least twenty-four (24) hours have passed without experiencing any symptoms or fever. If an individual tested positive but never had any symptoms, then the individual must wait until at least ten (10) days have passed since the test to be released from isolation.
- The student(s) in isolation should not interact with the others in contexts that would violate the 1.5-meter social distance. Students should not share items with other people during this time.
- Students who test positive will not join class field components or program excursions until isolation is completed after their first positive test.

Exposure to COVID-19: [The World Health Organization defines COVID-19 exposure](#) as face-to-face contact with someone who has a confirmed or probable infection within 1 meter and for more than 15 minutes; direct physical contact with someone with a confirmed or probable infection; or direct care for an individual with a confirmed or probable infection without using appropriate personal protective equipment.

If students have been exposed, they must self-monitor symptoms for 14 days and get a COVID-19 test if symptoms develop. If exposed but not experiencing symptoms, the student(s) must get a test 3-5 days following the exposure date and stay isolated until a negative test result.

Transportation: All class transportation between the apartments and the AU Nairobi Center, to and from internships, and program excursions are arranged and paid for through AU Nairobi with vaccinated drivers. Students are not permitted to take public transportation (matatus, buses, motorcycles, etc.) Outside of program obligations, app-based transportation companies and program sanctioned taxi drivers are permitted, and program transportation recommendations will be provided to students during orientation.

Housing: All AU Nairobi students live in furnished apartments that are paid for through their program fee. Two students are assigned to each apartment, and each student has their own bedroom and bathroom. Shared common space within the apartment includes a spacious kitchen, living and dining area, washing machine nook, and balcony. Students are not required to use a face covering in the apartment unless in case of suspected exposure or positive COVID-19 test result. If a student is exposed or tests positive with COVID and needs to isolate, they can do so in their apartment, or move into a studio apartment for use as an isolation facility. In the apartment complex outside each apartment or visiting another student apartment students must wear a face covering in all areas of the complex including the gym, shops, and café (when not eating or drinking).

Cleaning: Student apartments are cleaned six days a week by vaccinated cleaning professionals. The AU Nairobi Center is cleaned several times a day by vaccinated cleaning professionals, especially and including the areas with the highest influx of students, faculty, and staff. All frequently touched surfaces (door and window handles, light switches, bathrooms, handrails, desks, etc.) are given special cleaning attention.

Facility Air Quality/Water Quality: Windows and doors will be open while students are in class or utilizing the AU Nairobi Center. Student apartments can have windows open and utilize their balconies. The AU Nairobi Center and apartments provide drinking water. Students should not drink unfiltered water and should carry water bottles when in public.

Classrooms: The AU Nairobi Center is spacious both indoors and out. All classroom desks at the AU Center have been positioned according to local guidelines, leaving 1.5 meters between students. Students, faculty, staff should not change the position of desks or chairs in the classrooms.

Internships: All sites are vetted for COVID-related protocol by AU Nairobi staff prior to placing any AU student at an internship site. Policies related to COVID-19 have been added to the internship contract which is signed by AU Nairobi Director, the internship site's supervisor, and the student prior to starting the internship.

Excursions: All program excursions will be within Kenya and be close to appropriate medical facilities. During overnight excursions, apartment roommates will room together or in individual rooms/tents.

Independent travel: Students are not allowed to leave Kenya during the program dates. Staying overnight outside of Nairobi must be authorized by the AU Nairobi Director. Independent travel away from the program site will depend on several factors, including the state of the pandemic, local and international travel restrictions, and guidance from national, local, and U.S. authorities. Due to these uncertainties, AU strongly discourages students from engaging in any independent travel and also reserves the right to restrict certain locations/countries as may be deemed necessary. AU cannot extend any support for independent travel. Students who choose to travel away from the program site on non-program travel will be responsible for any inconveniences or costs incurred resulting from local restrictions or requirements. Additionally, if students are prevented from returning to the program site while travelling independently due to transport delays, local restrictions or border closures, any missed classes or required program activities will be deemed unexcused absences and will result in negative consequences as per our academic policies.