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 Spring 2022 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.

**COVID-19 Boosters:** All students will be required to receive a COVID-19 booster at least two weeks before the program start date in Kenya. AU will consider requests for exemptions from the booster for the following circumstances: medical or religious exemptions already approved by AU; students who are currently outside of the United States and not eligible to receive a booster in their host country; and students who are in the United States and not eligible for boosters by the program start date. These exemption requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Testing:** The Kenyan government requires all travelers obtain a negative PCR test 72 hours prior to departure in Kenya. Travelers are also required to provide vaccination certificate at the point of entry. All students will be required to take a COVID-19 test 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-pandemic related medical needs at Nairobi Hospital, Aga Khan Hospital, or at various recommended Nairobi clinics using Cigna medical insurance or [ACE international travel 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 face coverings 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. The person who tests positive must isolate and follow local regulations. The person can resume normal activities according to medical advice. AU Center staff will coordinate isolation for a student who tests positive.

**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 a person is fully vaccinated and is exposed, it is recommended that they get a COVID-19 test and comply with local regulations regarding high-risk contact.

**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. 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. Three students are assigned to each three bedroom/two bathroom apartment. 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 face coverings in their apartment unless in case of suspected exposure or positive COVID-19 test result. If a student is exposed or tests positive with COVID-19 and needs to isolate, they will 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 while 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. Windows can open at the student apartments and students have full access to the apartment 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 traveling 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.

**After Official Program End Date**: In case of isolation needs after the official program end date, AU Nairobi will arrange accommodation at the students’ cost.