



## 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 2022 AU Nairobi programs:

**COVID-19 Vaccinations and Boosters:** All students who intend to study abroad will be required to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and to get a COVID-19 booster(s).

Medical and religious exemptions which have already been approved by the American University Student Health Center will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The University, in its sole discretion, will evaluate the quality of the study abroad experience for a student who is either unvaccinated or no longer deemed fully vaccinated in their host country. If the University determines the experience will be so diminished as to not meet a reasonable standard, then the University will not consider exemptions for that location.

**Testing:** Travelers to Kenya are required to provide proof of a COVID-19 vaccination at the point of entry.. Given COVID-19 variants, all fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff may be subject to periodic surveillance asymptomatic testing at the university's discretion throughout the semester. Any person experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of ~~vaccine~~ 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 students, faculty, and staff are expected to follow Kenyan government directives regarding testing. Faculty, staff and students are expected to self-monitor for symptoms and seek medical care if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must get a COVID-19 test.

**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:** All students, staff, and faculty 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:** Students, staff, and faculty are expected to use and bring their own face coverings. Students will also be expected to wear face coverings as required by local government health directives or at the university's discretion.

**Personal Health Precautions:** In addition to wearing face coverings as noted, students, staff, and faculty 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, staff, and faculty 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 AU Nairobi staff. The person who tests positive must isolate and follow local regulations. The person can resume normal activities according to medical advice. However, the University also reserves the right to require a period self-isolation. Students will be expected to isolate in their apartments for at least 5 days. Isolation may end on day six if you do not have symptoms however you must wear a mask for the following 5 days

**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.

**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, staff, and faculty. 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.

**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. 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.