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## Risk Mitigation – AU Madrid Center

The safety and security of the AU community at AU Centers Abroad is 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 at AU Madrid Center:

### **COVID-19 Vaccination 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.

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**Entry Requirements:** U.S. citizens traveling from the United States to Spain must present upon arrival in Spain a QR code generated through the Spain Travel Health portal, obtained through the website or by downloading the “SpTH app” in Google Play Store or iTunes App Store for each traveler, regardless of their age and duration of the trip, unless they have a EU Digital COVID Certificate (DCC). The CDC vaccination certificate is not a digital certificate; therefore, travelers from the U.S. who have a CDC vaccination certificate must still generate the QR code through the Spain Travel Health portal.

### **Testing:**

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 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 Madrid Center, and local government directives regarding COVID-19 restrictions, regulations, and isolation and quarantine procedures.

**Daily Screening:** Faculty, staff and students are expected to self-monitor for symptoms and get a test 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-COVID medical needs at *HM Hospitales de Madrid*. *HM Hospitales* accepts AU Emergency Travel Insurance which all AU Abroad students automatically receive as an AU Abroad student. AU Abroad recommends that students purchase additional insurance to cover routine medical care.

**Contact Tracing:** Any student, faculty, staff, and host family member must report COVID-19 exposure/positive test result to the AU Madrid staff COVID coordinator. After taking a test at *HM Hospitales de Madrid*, the hospital will notify the Department of Health of the Community of Madrid and follow up directly with the patient. *HM Hospitales* also notifies the AU Madrid COVID coordinator IF the student has authorized it in writing when they took the test. The AU Madrid COVID coordinator will inform and look after close contacts (other students, faculty, homestay members, and other educational partners).

**Face Coverings:** Students may be required to wear face coverings as required by local government health directives or at the university's direction.

**Personal Health Precautions:** Members of the AU community are expected to exercise personal health precautions through practicing frequent hand washing and respiratory etiquette, monitoring their own health, 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 AU Madrid 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 homestay 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-

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Faculty, staff, and students, and are expected to bring their own face coverings and use them in required settings.

**Cleaning:** The homestay family will clean all common areas and the student's bedroom once a week. Common areas of RESA residences are cleaned frequently. The AU Center facilities are disinfected several times a day, especially the areas with the highest influx of students, professors, and staff. All frequently touched surfaces (door and window handles, light switches, bathrooms, handrails, desks, etc.) will be cleaned regularly.

**Facility Air Quality/Water Quality:** In our AU Madrid classrooms, we keep the windows always open, so air circulates continuously. When winter arrives, the windows will be closed during class but open during every break in between classes. All our AU Madrid classrooms have windows. Students should carry a personalized bottle of water.

**Housing:** AU Madrid students live in program arranged homestays or in a student residence called RESA. All individuals who live in the homestays are vaccinated. Students and host families are not required to use a face covering in the homestay 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 during the program, they can do so in the homestay. Students living at RESA housing must follow RESA protocols for isolation in case of exposure.

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

**Excursions:** Field trip locations for the Fall 2022 programs will proceed pending public health guidelines during the semester and are reviewed by AU Risk Management.

**Independent Travel:** 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 per our academic policies.

