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 Summer 2022 at AU Madrid Center:

- **COVID-19 Vaccination**: All students, faculty, staff, and members of homestay families over five years old will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Please refer to the Health and Safety Directive on Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination for further information.

- **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**: All fully vaccinated students, faculty, staff, and host families 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 Madrid Center, and local government directives regarding COVID-19 restrictions, regulations, and isolation and quarantine procedures.

- **Daily Screening**: To ensure they are not symptomatic, all students, faculty, and staff who are not fully vaccinated are expected to report symptoms or positive test results to program staff. Fully vaccinated 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. The AU Center is located within a Spanish law school called ISDE. To enter ISDE buildings, students must enter through the main door and use hand sanitizing gel.

- **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:** Faculty, staff, and students are required to follow local guidance regarding face coverings. American University and AU Madrid reserve the right to exceed these guidelines and impose requirements for face coverings.

• **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 the program staff who will relay the information to Risk Management through the AU Abroad office.

• **Exposure to COVID-19:** In Spain, you are considered to have been exposed to COVID-19 if you shared the same space, at a distance of less than 2 meters, and for a total time of more than 15 minutes in 24 hours and you didn’t use protective measures correctly within 48 hours of the onset of an infected person’s COVID-19 symptoms, or within 48 hours before their positive test to COVID-19 if they are an asymptomatic person.


• **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Faculty, staff, and students, and are expected to bring their own face coverings. Disposable face coverings will be provided for individuals who forget or lose their face coverings.

• **Cleaning:** The homestay family will clean all common areas and the student’s bedroom twice 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 (marked with their name).

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. If the home does not have a separate bathroom available for sole use of the student, then the student will be placed in another homestay or apartment during the student’s isolation. The AU Madrid Housing Coordinator will manage this process. BeMadrid, the organization through which AU Madrid manage homestays, can provide an apartment/room in a hotel in case of need of isolation if another host family is not available. The cost of this additional housing during the program dates is covered by BeMadrid. Students living at RESA housing must follow RESA protocols for isolation in case of exposure.

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

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 Summer 2022 programs are tentative and will proceed pending public health guidelines through the term. Tentative field trip locations are Andalucía (southern Spain) and Toledo. HM Hospitales de Madrid has locations throughout Spain for medical services while traveling on program sponsored field trips.
• **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. Due to these uncertainties, AU discourages students from engaging in any independent travel and 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 per our academic policies.