

Dear Students,

In my letter of July 22, I mentioned that our two current priorities are the continued academic progression and the continued health and safety of all of our students.

Today, I would like to give you an overview of some general health and safety considerations as they relate to study abroad and living and learning in Florence, Italy.

We are pleased to report that Italy has reopened and that the coronavirus, while still in existence, is currently contained according to gateway parameters consistent with the reopening of Italy and Europe.

For specific information about coronavirus statistics in Italy and Europe please refer to the following websites:

<https://reopen.europa.eu/en/>

<http://www.italia.it/en/useful-info/guidance-standards-for-hospitality-reopening.html>

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/homeNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english>

<https://www.epicentro.iss.it/en/coronavirus/sars-cov-2-dashboard>

<https://it.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

All students enrolled in the Fairfield University program are insured with Cultural Insurance Services International which has a network of qualified English speaking health care providers in Florence. Our program staff is bilingual English and Italian and are skilled at helping students gain access to all necessary health care. Our partner FUA has a COVID19 protocol which takes into consideration contingency plans in case of illness. Please read more about this here <https://fua.it/Cross-campus-news/fua-auf-fall-2020-campus-reopening.html>

At the current time a COVID 19 test can be administered only by the local health department or an affiliate. It is not possible at this time to electively take a COVID 19 test. It is however possible to take an antibody test at affiliated health care centers that have experience with the US student and expat community in Florence.

As we think about responsible engagement and health and safety, students enrolled in the Florence program must be prepared to follow specific regulations towards the prevention and containment of COVID 19. Since this is a rapidly evolving situation, the information contained in today's letter may change in the coming weeks or months. We will keep you informed accordingly but at the current time students will be asked to comply with the following:

All local laws and regulations.

Wearing a mask in closed public spaces when social distancing is not possible. For example: in waiting rooms, in supermarkets and stores, upon entering school premises and in classrooms when social distancing is not possible.

Practicing social distancing: i.e. maintaining at least one meter between persons.

Following local regulations with respect to quarantine and self isolation in case you arrive in Italy from an area considered at risk or if you have come into contact with someone positive for COVID 19.\*

\*These regulations may change. The EU reviews the list of countries considered at risk every two weeks. At the current time, travel restrictions still exist for US citizens and a quarantine is required for students entering Italy from the US. We will continue to monitor the situation and implement contingency plans to guarantee academic engagement even if a 14 day quarantine is required upon arrival in February 2021. For specific information about travel restrictions and gateway parameters in the EU, please refer to the following link.  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/07/16/council-updates-the-list-of-countries-for-which-member-states-should-gradually-lift-travel-restrictions-at-the-external-borders/>

Self isolating in case of symptoms including cough, fever, sore throat.

Immediately reporting symptoms to program staff and the local health authorities

All housemates will be considered a family unit. To protect the health and safety of all student residents, no fellow students, friends, family members, relatives or people met locally will be allowed in student residences.

If one housemate has symptoms of illness but has not been diagnosed with COVID 19, out of extreme caution, and in accordance with local health regulations, all members of the household will be required to quarantine together for 14 days. Arrangements will be made for the continuation of academic work and for meal delivery. Remote support will be provided for the physical and mental wellbeing of the students.

In case of a diagnosed case of COVID 19, the sick student is required to isolate from others. In this case scenario, the student will be placed in alternative accommodations that may be provided by the school or by the local department of health. Arrangements will be made for the continuation of academic work and for meal delivery. Remote support will be provided for the physical and mental wellbeing of the students.

In program housing, students will be responsible for wiping down surfaces after use and for cleaning their apartment on a weekly basis.

In program housing, students will wear masks when in the kitchen together with other housemates and in all cases when a safe distance of 1 meter cannot be guaranteed.

Students and staff will practice respiratory and hand hygiene. We will cough or sneeze into a tissue or, in absence of a tissue, into our elbow. We will

wash our hands regularly and, in absence of soap and water, use disinfectant hand gel. Hand gel is available upon entry into university buildings and offices, all retail stores, and in the program housing.

As this public health crisis continues to evolve, we recommend that you consult the links provided for regular updates and answers to frequently asked questions about the coronavirus in Italy. Please also contact us with any questions or concerns or take part in one of the future Zoom information sessions to learn more about responsible engagement in Florence, Italy.

As you continue to monitor the news and consider studying abroad in Florence, we encourage you to think seriously about your physical and mental health and to self-disclose if you have any conditions considered a risk category for COVID 19 or for which you may need specific accommodations. To self-disclose please contact the staff of Student Health Services with the specific request that they coordinate with the staff in the Office of Study Abroad on a management plan for your time abroad.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months. Please tune into one of the Zoom sessions on July 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM Eastern Time, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm Eastern Time or August 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm Eastern Time for more information.

Sincerely,

Joanne Maddux