

PROJECT RESTART

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Group Travel Guidelines During COVID-19

Travel significantly increases the risk of contracting COVID-19, and the amount of increased risk depends on the length of the trip, location, and type of travel as well as the vaccination status of the traveler. This guidance provides information about USC's restrictions on group (2 or more people) travel for USC-sponsored groups, which aligns with CDC and other relevant requirements (State/local, County and Country). In addition to following these guidelines, group members should also check for additional local advisories, restrictions, and guidance issued by authorities in the trip location.

USC guidelines reflect current guidance from the CDC and CA Department of Public Health regarding vaccination, testing, and quarantine for travelers.

USC-SPONSORED TRAVEL

USC Review & Approval

All USC-sponsored travel requires approval from relevant School Dean or designated division lead.

CPMC Review

Additional review and approval by USC COVID-19 Project Management Committee (CPMC) is required for the following scenarios:

- Travel destination includes a CDC Level 4 country
- Overnight trips involving unvaccinated individuals (see *Unvaccinated Travelers* section below)

How to Get CPMC Approval

To obtain approval, send your travel plan (if it's not in your restart plan) and COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Plan Form to EH&S (see below for additional details). Once reviewed, it will be sent to CPMC and a meeting will be calendared for discussion. Travel that is not USC-sponsored will not require review, but should follow this guidance for safety reasons.



RISK OF COVID-19 WHILE TRAVELING

Overnight Trips

USC groups who travel and stay for one or more nights are considered at higher risk. All travel must be approved by your school or department and CPMC if appropriate. If you have questions about planning group travel, contact EH&S at ehs@usc.edu for a consultation.

Day Trips

USC groups who do not stay overnight are considered lower risk. Day trips do not require approval.

BEFORE TRAVEL

Symptom Check

All travelers should complete a symptom check on the day of departure through Trojan Check. Travelers experiencing any potential COVID 19 symptoms should not travel regardless of vaccine or testing status.

Recently Exposed

Travelers who are recently (within five days prior to departure) exposed, regardless of symptoms, testing, or vaccine status should not travel.

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Fully Vaccinated Travelers

Before departure, verify that all participants are up to date on their vaccinations, including boosters if eligible, by sending a list of participants to Student Health at least 14 days before departure. Participants should upload vaccine documentation to USC mySHR (<https://usc.edu/myshr>).

Unvaccinated Travelers

Unvaccinated individuals are presumptively not permitted for USC sponsored overnight travel; however, an exception may be requested via USC CPMC if travel is absolutely necessary. When possible, unvaccinated students should



be given alternative assignments, and/or the ability to delay travel until risks are reduced.

DURING TRAVEL

Act as a bubble

Groups who choose to travel should act as a “bubble,” setting clear and honest expectations about how to act when inside or outside that bubble. If you or someone in your bubble tests positive, the entire group should be prepared to quarantine or self-isolate. When traveling in a group, the interactions and activities should happen amongst the people you are traveling with. Excursions to public places such as concerts, bars, indoor restaurants, or entertainment venues should be avoided to decrease the amount of exposure to the group.

Room & Board

It is best if rooms can remain single occupancy.

Dining

Meal times are considered higher risk. Meals should be provided outdoors when possible and/or with options for physical distancing.

PLANNING FOR USC GROUP LEADERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Quarantine & Isolation Plan

To ensure that you have a plan in place for quarantine and isolation if someone in your bubble becomes symptomatic or tests positive for COVID-19 while traveling, complete the [COVID-19 Quarantine & Isolation Plan Form](#). Follow local guidelines for quarantine and isolation unless there is a medical evacuation plan to bring the positive person or unvaccinated exposed person back to Los Angeles. The cost of this will be provided by the group or school sponsoring the trip.

WHEN YOU RETURN

If you are vaccinated:

- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.

If you are unvaccinated:

- Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
 - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
 - If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.

RESOURCES

[USC Travel \(International\) Guidance](#)

[USC Travel \(Personal\) Guidelines](#)

[USC COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Safety Plan](#)

[LADPH Travel Advisory](#)

[CDC Domestic Travel During COVID-19](#)

[CDC International Travel During COVID-19](#)