

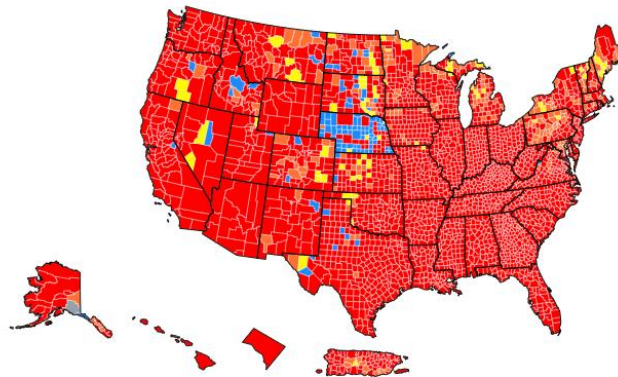
Updated Guidance for UW System Campuses Considering Opening Travel

August 2021

While each campus has the authority to determine when to travel, this guidance document is to inform decision makers on the current state of COVID (as of August 2021) and provide options for programming and/or restricting travel. This is a follow up to the original guidance issued in May 2021.

Current State on Travel - Domestic

- The CDC has released updated guidance in July regarding COVID in the US, and as of Aug 19, the CDC COVID tracker, which is updated daily at 7pm, indicates many areas in the US of having a high level of community transmission <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>



● High ● Substantial ● Moderate ● Low ● No Data

- Travel for unvaccinated individuals is not recommended by the CDC and guidance for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals can be found [here](#).
- CDC guidance for unvaccinated individuals include:
 - Testing 1-3 days prior to your trip
 - Wearing a mask
 - Social distancing
 - Washing hands often and/or using sanitizer
 - After travel: get a viral test within 3-5 days, and self-quarantine for a full 7 days
- CDC guidance for vaccinated individuals include:
 - Wearing a mask while traveling on public transportation
 - Following state and local recommendations on mask wearing and social distancing
 - After travel: self-monitor for COVID symptoms, isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms
- UW System has posted many helpful COVID specific links on TravelWise (including current restrictions by campus) <https://www.wisconsin.edu/travel/covid-19/>

Current State on Travel - International

- President Thompson requests that each campus have a formal review and approval process in place before booking any international travel and ensure campus leadership is aware of ongoing travel plans.
 - UWSA can provide traveler tracking reports to help campuses monitor travel.
- Many US companies and Universities are still restricting international travel to “essential only” or by documented exception type of approvals, with many not yet “opening up travel without restrictions”
 - No change from guidance in May
- UW System is requesting each campus to consider health and safety risks as well as financial risks before planning overseas travel, especially for student and group travel.
- UW System Travel Wise site has added links and additional considerations for international travel <https://www.wisconsin.edu/travel/planning/international/>.
- Best practice is to have links to help educate students on risks (see UW Madison’s example) <https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/covid-19-faq/>
- UW System updated CISI Insurance in May of 2021 to include a \$2,000 Travel Delay benefit – to help with any positive COVID tests before returning to US or while abroad. CISI insurance is required for all student travel.

Current barriers to international travel:

- Many countries require negative COVID tests before entering, some also require additional tests upon arrival in country to avoid quarantine.
- Some countries require quarantine at traveler’s personal cost, and penalties may include fines or arrest for non-compliance.
- The allowance for entry to countries based on vaccination status and the use of so-called “vaccine passports” remain very much in flux; some countries may ultimately allow entry based on full vaccination certification, but this allowance may be restricted to vaccines approved within the destination country.
- Many countries now require medical insurance, or require a deposit (typically around \$2,000 USD for two weeks meal/lodging expenses).
- Countries may restrict travel to and from other countries and change COVID-related entry requirements on short to no notice, as well as declare domestic social restrictions that may impact travelers’ purpose.
- COVID is still a major threat in many countries and vaccine distribution globally is not estimated to be complete until at least 2023 or beyond. Many countries remain at single digit percentages of their population vaccinated.
- The [US State Dept Travel Advisory Levels](#) for many countries continue to be listed as “Do Not Travel”
 - Link to the current map <https://travelmaps.state.gov/TSGMap/>

Programming options for Travel – please work with your [campus Travel Manager](#) or contact Elizabeth Dressel edressel@uwsa.edu for options if you would like to update travel restrictions (options for domestic vs international approval configuration), or to receive regular traveler tracking reports.