CUIMC Student Travel and COVID-19 Testing Protocol:

Scope: This protocol applies to all CUIMC students

Protocol: The Columbia University Travel policy states that all University sponsored travel for students is currently suspended. Students are urged to postpone all personal domestic travel but are approved for personal or family emergencies, such as illness or death. The policy statement can be found here:

https://covid19.columbia.edu/content/travel#~:text=All%20academic%2D%20or%20work%20related%20to%20approval%20by%20applicable%20deans.

There are several considerations for students who are planning travel during this time.

- **NYS travel advisory for people returning to NYS from designated high-risk states**
  For the most recent guidance and list of states, click [here](https://covid19.columbia.edu/content/travel#~:text=All%20academic%2D%20or%20work%20related%20to%20approval%20by%20applicable%20deans).
  - Students in the clinical portion of their education (patient care, clinical skills training, Sim Center), are eligible to be tested under the Governor’s exemption for health care workers to allow continuation of clinical work:
    - Those returning from a designated high-risk state must be tested within 24 hours of return to NYS and quarantine until they receive a result
      Students with a negative result can return to their clinical placement but should continue to observe the following guidelines for 14 days following their return:
      - Maintain self-quarantine when not at work
      - Monitor temperature and for signs and symptoms
      - Wear a face covering when in public
      - Maintain social distancing
      - Clean and disinfect workspaces
      - Avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers, and large congregate settings
  - Students who are **not** currently enrolled in a clinical experience as described above, or who are in a non-clinical program (IHN, MSPH) will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon their return from a designated high-risk state and are not eligible for the health care worker exemption described above.

All students who are quarantined should review the following information:
Increased risk of community exposure during travel

- NYS and CDC define community exposure as:
  - having close contact (less than 6 ft proximity) for more than 10 minutes consecutively to someone who either has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive regardless of symptoms, or
  - Having close contact (less than 6 ft proximity) for more than 15 minutes cumulatively over 24 hours
- The timing of the exposure is from 2 days prior to the onset of symptoms or positive test in the person with COVID-19 until the criteria for ending home isolation have been met by them. Close contact is based on proximity and time irrespective of whether the person with COVID-19 or the contact was wearing a mask, although masks are essential to lower the risk of transmission.
- Anyone with a community exposure (whether or not it is related to travel) is subject to a 14-day quarantine and is not eligible to return to their clinical placement or other in-person campus activity, regardless of test results.

Testing:

- Students who are eligible for testing in order to return to clinical placement can schedule an appointment at the Schaefer Gallery testing site by using the testing site portal: secure.health.columbia.edu
- Students should take into account the anticipated time to receive the test result when making their plans for travel. For the Columbia Testing site results take approximately 48 hours. For commercial labs, the range is anywhere from 3 days to 14 days and fluctuates according to any surges around the country.
- Other testing locations, include rapid testing sites:
  - https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/covid-19-testing-sites/
  - https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you
  - https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-rapid-testing.page
- Anyone having difficulty obtaining a test, should contact SHS by calling 212-305-3400 for assistance.

Students with symptoms:

- Students who return from travel with symptoms, or who develop symptoms within the 14-day monitoring period should immediately self-isolate and schedule a telehealth visit with SHS via the student health portal: cuhs.studenthealthportal.com
For additional resources or information related to COVID-19:

https://covid19.columbia.edu/
https://www.cuimc.columbia.edu/covid-19-resources-cuimc/covid-19-information-students
https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/index.page

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