

International Travel during Covid



UF President Kent Fuchs

Dear Faculty and Staff,

In line with Governor DeSantis' guidance and the directives issued by the state's Department of Management Services, the university will be implementing the following policies effective immediately.

Business and Personal Travel:

- UF is prohibiting all non-essential university travel until further notice. Additionally, previous approvals for travel are now rescinded, provided that travel has not yet commenced. Essential travel may be approved by your senior vice president or vice president.
- Faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) best practices for prevention of COVID-19. Personal travel should be minimized. UF employees who do embark on personal travel involving a cruise or international destinations will be required to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days before being allowed to return to work.

University-related Business Activities:

- No visitors are to be hosted on campus unless approved by a senior vice president or vice president.
- Everyone is encouraged to practice social distancing, avoid large gatherings and conduct university business via videoconferencing and virtual meetings.
- UF is canceling, postponing or, where feasible, moving all events to alternate virtual modes of participation through at least March 30, 2020. Scheduling new future events and conferences will also be postponed for this duration.

More information regarding these decisions as well as other questions related to COVID-19 are available by accessing these [updated FAQs](#).

I am grateful for your effort and commitment. I know we all face considerable uncertainty and anxiety about the next several months. Thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility.

With admiration and gratitude,
UF President Kent Fuchs

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Office of Human Resources,
Diversity and Inclusion

Traveling back into the U.S.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/from-other-countries.html>

Several Presidential proclamations established restrictions on the entry of certain travelers into the United States in an effort to help slow the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

With specific exceptions, foreign nationals who have been in any of the following countries during the past 14 days may not enter the United States. For a full list of exceptions, please refer to the relevant proclamations in the links below.

•[China](#)

•[Iran](#)

•[European Schengen area](#) (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City)

•[United Kingdom](#) (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)

•[Republic of Ireland](#)

•[Brazil](#)

Exceptions

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/presidential-proclamation-coronavirus.html>

U.S. citizens are not subject to the proclamations. All proclamations provide exceptions to the restrictions for lawful permanent residents of the United States. Some exceptions include, but are not limited to: foreign diplomats traveling to the United States on A or G visas and certain family members of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents including; spouses, children (under the age of 21), parents (provided that his/her U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident child is unmarried and under the age of 21), and siblings (provided that both the sibling and the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident are unmarried and under the age of 21). There is also an exception for air and sea crew traveling to the United States on C, D or C1/D visas. For the full list of exceptions please refer to the proclamations.

*Some foreign nationals may be eligible for exceptions to the bans, but the most commonly used waivers can only be granted by the U.S. government while the person is outside the United States.

BUT But but ...

I didn't have any issues when I came into the U.S. a couple months ago?!

Short answer response = They lucked out

Long answer response = the proclamations have been in place since their conception, but the TSA and CBP were allowed to loosen the restrictions for certain countries while the virus spread had slowed down.

That doesn't mean they won't be stopped this time, or the next, or the next ...

Still going?

Things your employee must consider:

1. Will they need to apply for a visa while outside the United States?

Many U.S. consulates abroad are still operating at reduced capacity due to local COVID-19 conditions. Visa appointments are limited in many areas. Some posts are scheduling appointments only in emergency or mission-critical circumstances. Many are applying a strict case-type priority system, which favors emergency cases, diplomats, and COVID-19-related travel over student and employment-based nonimmigrant visa appointments.

If you secure a visa appointment, you should also prepare to be flexible. An increase in COVID-19 cases in the host country could mean further tightening of consular operations, including appointment cancellations or rescheduling with little notice.

Check your particular U.S. consulate website for information on their operations. A list of consulate websites can be found at www.usembassy.gov.

2. Will they need to apply for an H, L, or J-1 visa while abroad?

Another hurdle may exist for those seeking H, L, or certain J-1 visas while outside the United States. President Trump's June 22 presidential proclamation restricting visa issuance in these categories remains in effect until December 31, 2020. The ban is likely to be extended beyond that date.

Consult your Fragomen immigration counsel to determine whether you might be either exempt from the June 22 ban or eligible for a waiver.

[Fragomen Alerts for holiday travel during coronavirus emergency](#)

More things to consider

3. Are all of their travel documents valid and accurate?

It is more important than ever to ensure that your travel documents are valid and accurate both before international travel and after your reentry, as noted below:

Passport validity. In general, your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the expiration of your period of admission to the United States. Many countries have an agreement with the United States under which a passport is deemed valid for an additional six months past its expiration date so that the passport holder can return to his or her country of citizenship.

If you have questions about whether your passport is valid for reentry, contact your designated Fragomen professional or click [here](#) for more information.

Visa validity. The visa stamp in your passport must reflect your current nonimmigrant visa status, it must be unexpired, and, if the visa has a limited number of entries, it must have a remaining valid entry available for reentry to the United States. If you need to apply for a new visa while abroad in order to reenter the United States, be aware of the restrictions described earlier that may present challenges in doing so.

For additional information on visa requirements, click [here](#).

4. Does the United States have COVID public health requirements after reentry from international travel?

At this time, the United States has no federal quarantine requirements. The federal agency Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued after-travel recommendations only, which can be found [here](#).

Quarantine requirements in the United States are governed by the U.S. state through which you enter. Some states do not have after-travel requirements in place. For some states, entry from a [CDC Level 2 or Level 3 COVID-19 country](#) triggers heightened requirements. State policies can vary widely and change quickly; travelers should closely monitor their destination state requirements before travel and prior to reentry to the United States. The following are links to resources regarding travel for some major states:

- [New York State COVID-19 Travel Advisory](#)
- [California State COVID-19 Travel Advisory](#)
- [Texas Department of State Health Services Information for Travelers](#)
- [Virginia Department of Health Information for Travelers](#)

They left the country anyways and now they're stuck!!

Avoid saying, "I told you so!" and instead say, "Bless your heart!"

Start asking your employee questions:

1. What country are they in?
2. What have they been told so far?
3. When is the earliest they can enter the US?
4. How much accrued leave do they have left?

Call Katie with all known information and be prepared with the following:

1. What are the primary job duties of the employee?
2. Will the office, lab, research, etc suffer until the employee is back in the US?
3. Can the job duties be handled by anyone else until the employee is back?
4. Complete the [Employee Abroad Remote Work Location Agreement](#)
 - We will review the request with IFAS International Support Team (IIST) on a case-by-case basis.
 - If not approved, the employee must use accrued leave or be placed into an unpaid status until their return to the US

They left the country anyways and now they're stuck!!

Colleagues:

Please note below and share with your unit.

Should you or one of your employees travel internationally and be unable to return, we cannot guarantee that UF will approve any request to work remotely, given that the travel was not work related. Individuals in this situation will have to take vacation leave to cover the time you are absent. Should they not have enough leave to cover the time, they will fall into a leave without pay status.

As with UF business related travel, if UF owned equipment (laptop or cell phones) will be used, the trip should be registered within the MyAssets system. Please ensure that your graduate assistants are aware of the risks associated with international travel and re-entry. As they do not accrue leave, unexpected detainment may have a greater impact upon these students.

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