



The University of Vermont

March 12, 2020

Students abroad and your emergency contacts:

Last night the U.S. Department of State issued a [Global Health Advisory](#) to reconsider traveling anywhere internationally. In addition, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control added a travel notice for [most of Europe](#), moving it directly to a “[avoid non-essential travel](#)” rating.

**UVM strongly encourages you to make plans to return to the U.S.** While we cannot require you to do so, we urge you to consider that the health care system in your host country may not have the capacity to assist you in the weeks and months ahead. Additionally, travel may become more complicated as time passes.

### **ACADEMIC IMPLICATIONS**

Please do not let concerns about whether your institution/program abroad will provide you with an option to complete your courses remotely determine your decision to return to the U.S. If your host institution/program abroad does not provide an option, UVM will develop a path for you to complete the term with full academic credits. We hope that you will understand that this path will not be an exact replica of your intended course of study this semester, but we will ensure degree progress. You must bring home your syllabi; any course materials (notes, work, submitted assignments); and any graded materials up until this point to help facilitate that process.

If remote instruction is offered by your program or host university, you are **required** to complete your coursework in that way in order for your transfer credit to be evaluated and awarded for this semester. If you are not clear on your program provider’s plan, please consult them after returning to the U.S.

### **TRAVEL**

- Contact your airline to schedule a return flight at the earliest possible date. Many phone lines may be busy, and it may take some time to get through.
- Go directly home. Because you were not previously living on the UVM campus this semester, we regret that we are not able to accommodate you in our residence halls.
- If you are unable to schedule a return flight through your airline for a date in the next 7-10 days, email [studyabroad@uvm.edu](mailto:studyabroad@uvm.edu) so that we can help you problem solve.
- Be prepared to be screened upon re-entry to the U.S. Please [see page 3 of this document for airport screening guidance](#) from the Department of State Overseas Security Advisory Council.
- **Continue to follow CDC’s guidelines for [handwashing and prevention](#).** Review what to do [while you travel](#) (See “what can travelers do to protect themselves” section).
- **Notify your host university or program of your departure schedule.**

### **AFTER RETURNING TO THE U.S.**

The CDC advises that if you spent time in the affected countries, you will be expected to:

- Stay home for 14 days from the time you return from travel, monitor your health and practice social distancing. Social distancing means staying out of crowded places, avoiding group gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.
- If you get sick with fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher), cough, or have trouble breathing
  - Seek medical advice. Call ahead before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room.
  - Tell your doctor about your recent travel and your symptoms.
  - Avoid contact with others.
- Do not travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.

UVM cares deeply about your health and wellbeing, and our staff want to support you. Please take care of yourselves as you begin your preparations to return home.

Sincerely,  
Gary Derr  
Vice President for Operations and Public Safety