

University of Chicago Laboratory Schools
Communicable Disease Travel Policy for Domestic and International Trips
Modified April 2023

The following policy applies to all participants in Laboratory Schools' domestic or international trips in the Middle and High School.

- (1) **Students' families should consider purchasing trip insurance.** If a student's travel arrangements must be canceled or altered in any way, for any reason, families will not be refunded any costs associated with the change/cancellation by the school; the only source of reimbursement will be the family's own trip insurance.

- (2) **Students and chaperones must be healthy before departure.**
 - (a) During the week leading up to the departure date, participants must inform the school if they have any symptoms of communicable illnesses. Self-testing for COVID-19 is recommended.
 - (b) Participants must comply with any health-related (or other) travel requirements imposed by the destination country/countries, air carriers, other public or private transportation providers, or other authorities. Note that some international destinations maintain vaccination or booster requirements for certain communicable diseases.
 - (c) Students and chaperones are strongly encouraged to exercise increased caution the week before they travel. For example, avoid high-density activities and consider wearing a mask in all shared spaces. Make sure you are up-to-date with vaccinations/boosters.
 - (d) Travelers must have access to their medical history.
 - (e) Participants will be required to follow CDC guidelines regarding COVID and all other communicable diseases.

- (3) **If a student cannot depart on time with the group** because of illness (or any other reason), traveling separately to meet the group is not guaranteed, but may be permitted by the Principal as follows:
 - (a) The decision to permit a late arrival at the destination is at the exclusive discretion of the Principal.
 - (b) Factors will include an assessment of whether a late arrival is logistically possible without disrupting the trip or other participants.

- (c) The student's family is solely responsible for any additional cost (e.g., change/cancellation fees or additional travel expenses) not covered by the family's own trip insurance.

- (4) **Throughout the trip, all students and chaperones should consider masking on buses and planes.** Additional masking may be instructed by trip leads on an as-needed basis; therefore, students and chaperones must pack 3-5 masks and carry a mask with them while traveling.

- (5) **Chaperones will carry a small number of rapid antigen tests** in case a participant becomes symptomatic for COVID while traveling.

- (6) **If a student becomes ill during the trip...**
 - (a) While the trip is in progress, appropriate accommodations will be provided.

 - (b) At the conclusion of the trip:
 - (i) If a student cannot return with the group as scheduled, a Lab School chaperone will do the following: .
 - 1) **Domestic:** Lab chaperone will stay at the destination with the child for approximately 1 day. If the child is unable to travel, their parent or guardian is expected to relieve the Lab chaperone.
 - 2) **International:** Lab chaperone will stay at the destination with the child for up to 3 days. If the child is unable to travel, their parent or guardian is expected to relieve the Lab chaperone.
 - (ii) If a student must remain at the destination after the conclusion of the trip, the student's family will be solely responsible for any associated costs (e.g., additional accommodations, change/cancellation fees, additional travel expenses). The only source of reimbursement will be the family's own trip insurance.