IIRPS/SGPS COVID Response and Policy

This page is updated regularly with any changes to pertinent global COVID requirements.

The health and safety of our participants continue to be a priority as we monitor the global COVID pandemic. IIRPS and SGPS programs monitor and adhere to all requirements maintained by our collaborating organizations (see also WVU Education Abroad COVID-19 Travel Policy) as well as the Italian and US Government agencies.

All SGPS participants must abide by the local health and safety guidelines, including vaccination requirements. **IIRPS will update and confirm with all participants COVID regulations one-month prior to the beginning of each program.**

All SGPS applicants will be asked to provide COVID vaccination status prior to acceptance to the program, in accordance with SGPS adherence to requirements maintained by our collaborating organizations as well as the Italian Government. Applicants requiring exemptions due to documented medical reasons will need to contact Polly Withers.

All SGPS participants will be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of the orientation day before classes start at the beginning of each session. Participants may also be required to fill out a health screener and have their temperatures taken every Monday at the beginning of classes.

COVID Travel Guidelines and Compliances*
All students traveling internationally must comply with Italian expectations for travel, including testing mandates, prior to departure. There is currently a travel alert for Italy and the US requiring travelers to be fully vaccinated and to be able to show proof of vaccination before flying. Travelers may also be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test prior to departing.

**Before departing,** it is the **traveler’s responsibility to know:**
- **What test** and documentation is needed prior to traveling to Italy
- **Time limitations** for the test result (most are 72 hours prior to flying)
- What type of test and documentation is needed **prior to scheduling a test**
- Understand that **vaccinations are valid for 12 months** from the second/full dose. (We recommend that travelers have the 2nd shot at least 2 weeks prior to departure and/or ensure that the 2nd shot will not be more than 12 months old before flying home - in which case, get a booster shot before flying.)
- Understand and comply with all **masking** requirements on airlines and local masking ordinances while traveling

**Upon arrival** in Italy, currently travelers are required to:
- take rapid-response COVID test (currently 20 euros)
- complete a Self-Declaration Form
- complete a Passenger Locator Form

**COVID-specific Safety Procedures***
- If a participant is not feeling well and is experiencing flu-like symptoms, please immediately tell a member of the SGPS staff. Put on a mask and keep mindful of others by self-distancing.
- If you don’t know the vaccination status of the group, mask while indoors
- Mask while outdoors in large crowds
- Social distance when you can
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer
- Comply with quarantining regulations during the program

* For general safety and travel guidelines, please see our Student Services webpage and our Travel Logistics document.

**What happens if a participant or member of staff contracts COVID during the Program?**

- If a participant is not feeling well and is experiencing flu-like symptoms, please immediately tell a member of the SGPS staff. Put on a mask and keep mindful of others by self-distancing.
- The **insurance** plan SGPS requires for participation covers COVID as any other illness. The policy would cover testing, medication, doctor visits and hospitalization. Testing is only covered if medically necessary, meaning if the participant is sick or showing symptoms. It is not covered for preventative measures like country entry.
- Participants may be required to **quarantine**, depending on current local regulations. SGPS will assist in finding accommodations, but this may incur extra housing fees for the participant. Applicants will be required to agree to pay these fees.
- If a member of **faculty** becomes sick, we have a virtual option with qualified teaching assistants continuing in-person workshops.

**Italy COVID Requirements Update Fall 2021**

Travelers may be asked to show your proof of COVID vaccination certificate when accessing certain local indoor services, such as restaurants, museums, gyms, cinemas, private events, public transportation, etc. Italy has extended the validity of COVID vaccination certificates and the equivalency for foreign-state-issued COVID vaccination/recovery certifications.

By Italian Law (Decreto-Legge 21 Settembre 2021, n. 127, art. 5), effective September 19, 2021, COVID Vaccination Certificates are now valid up to 12 months from the second dose/full-vaccination. Furthermore, third dose (booster shots) are considered valid up to 12 months past the date of injection.

The Italian Ministry of Health issued an ordinance on July 29, 2021 stating that an Anti-COVID-19 vaccination certificate for an European Medicines Agency (EMA) recognized vaccine from competent U.S. health authorities (CDC “white cards”) will be considered the equivalent of the Italian Green Pass where this requirement exists.

In order for a foreign-issued COVID vaccination certification, such as the U.S. CDC vaccine card, to be considered equivalent to the E.U. Green Pass issued by the Italian Government, the vaccination certification must include the following information for the vaccinated individual:

- Last name and first name;
- Date of birth;
- Name of vaccine;
- Date(s) of vaccination does (when the vaccine was administered);
- Identification of the issuing health authority certifying the vaccination.

The administered vaccine indicated on the COVID vaccination certification must be one of the official E.U. recognized vaccines *(please also reference the dgc.gov.it website for additional details, FAQ - Certificazione verde COVID-19 (dgc.gov.it))*:
- Comirnaty (Pfizer-BioNtech);
- Spikevax (Moderna);
- Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca);
- Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).
- Covishield (Serum Institute of India), AstraZeneca
- R-CoVI (R-Pharm), AstraZeneca
- Covid-19 vaccine-recombinant (Fiocruz), AstraZeneca

Should you experience any issues with any establishment please refer them to the original Italian-language decrees at the following links:
Equipollenza certificazioni vaccinali e di guarigione rilasciate dagli Stati Terzi per gli usi previsti dall’ art. 3 del decreto-legge 23 luglio 2021; and
Equivalenza di vaccini anti SARS-CoV-2/COVID somministrati all’estero