

International and Domestic Travel COVID Protocols

Statement of Purpose: This policy is intended to address the travel rules, regulations, guidelines, and suggestions for students taking part in trips sponsored by Trevecca Nazarene University for academic enrichment, mission, and service to communities during the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. It will apply to both domestic and international travel and has been specifically crafted with student safety upmost in mind. Although all travel involves safety risks, those risks have been heightened by the presence of the COVID-19 virus and its variants. As a result, it has become imperative for the University to take reasonable actions to minimize the enhanced risks of the COVID virus without eliminating valuable educational, missional, and service travel by students unless there is no reasonable way to conduct such trips. Therefore, after consultation with scientific, medical, and legal counsel, the following protocols for student travel have been adopted for the 2021-22 academic year.

All travelers participating in any University sponsored trip during the 2021-22 academic year must comply with the following policies to mitigate contraction and/or spread of the COVID-19 virus and variants thereof and thereby remain as safe as possible:

1. Demonstrate proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19
2. Present proof of a negative PCR or antigen COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours prior to leaving on the trip
3. Wear a mask and social distance as requested by the trip leader and as mandated by the local government in the locales visited
4. Read and sign a waiver agreeing to hold Trevecca Nazarene University harmless and not to sue Trevecca Nazarene University in the event the participant contracts COVID on the trip and negative consequences result, including the possibility of being left behind to quarantine and even death.
5. In the event of foreign travel:
 - a. Enroll in the US Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/step.html>.
 - b. Comply with any host government regulations for entering the Country
 - c. Consider acquiring travel insurance to cover any unexpected contingencies such as having to quarantine overseas

The university will require two full-time employees to accompany all university sponsored international trips. Trip leaders must make contingency plans to deal with the possibility of a trip participant contracting COVID while on the trip. This includes securing housing for isolation (7-10 days) and having an employee remain in the country while the participant isolates.

Trip leaders will also need to arrange for appropriate COVID testing for the return trip to the United States.