



FHSU FACULTY-LED PROGRAMS HEALTH & WELLNESS PROTOCOL RECOMMENDATIONS

Can faculty leaders require students to do a Covid-19 test prior to departure?

FHSU does not mandate Covid-19 tests for academic program participation. Faculty leaders should not require Covid-19 testing on behalf of FHSU in order to participate in an international short-term faculty-led program, yet at the same time should advise participants of any third-party mandatory testing that may be required. If working with a third-party program provider, they will offer support and guidance on proper actions to take.

If a student gets sick, are faculty leaders required to stay with them or can they travel on with the group?

FHSU recommends that faculty leaders evaluate each student situation very carefully and be prepared to coordinate with the student and their medical provider, as necessary, in order to determine what care may be needed for a student who is experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 or any other illness. It is recommended that faculty leaders specify in their contingency plan what local entities are available to provide assistance in the event one of the student travelers becomes ill or needs medical care. Faculty leaders will need to assess the severity of the student's situation and consult with the student and their medical provider, as necessary, to determine the best course of action concerning a student. Students need to understand that they are ultimately responsible for obtaining medical care and advice and that there is inherent risk with travel, including the risk of medical, travel, and financial disruptions, especially in the midst of Covid-19.

Can faculty leaders require students to wear masks at any time during travel?

Because of the nature of travel, it is recommended that faculty leaders not require face masks for program participation, except to the extent such may be required by a specific country, airline, vendor, third party provider, or other third party relative to any component of an international short-term faculty-led program.

Can we require students to be vaccinated prior to travel?

FHSU does not mandate that students be vaccinated for academic program participation. Faculty leaders should not require vaccination on behalf of FHSU in order to participate in an international short-term program, yet at the same time should advise participants of any third-party mandatory vaccination that may be required.

Who is responsible for the extra fees (lodging/testing) if a faculty leader must remain with a student if they test positive Covid-19 or another illness?

The faculty leader needs to develop a contingency plan and be prepared for a situation where a student may need assistance due to any illness or medical emergency. It is recommended that the faculty leader work with their department chair to plan for these case scenarios and what funding options will be made available if a situation arises. It is recommended that the faculty leader identify a health care professional or medical clinic/hospital in their contingency plan that can assist with medical care (including mental health needs) during their program.

Can a student travel home independently without the Faculty Leader? Or can they continue traveling after the program ends separately from the group?

It is highly recommended and encouraged that a faculty leader accompanies their student travelers to and from the program destination as well for the duration of the program. Many students participate in faculty-led programs with the peace of mind that they have an experienced leader traveling with them at all times. It is recommended that each short-term program have two faculty leaders leading the group in the event that one faculty leader may not be able to accompany the group to or from the destination. Any students approved to travel separately from the group do so at their own risk and may be required to sign additional waiver and acknowledgment forms, in accordance with program requirements.

Do Faculty Leaders need a form/contract that students need to sign to affirm they are responsible for any “non-recoverable” costs if they cancel or if the program would get canceled for any reason?

It is recommended that during the faculty leader’s pre-departure orientation that information is shared about payment deadlines and the last possible date on which a student can withdraw from the program to avoid any cancellation fees or having to pay for any non-recoverable costs. There is inherent financial risk with homegrown programs; thus, make sure student travelers are aware of what financial risks are associated with the program. Please refer to the FHSU Travel Waiver and FHSU Travel Policy which outlines the release of FHSU for any responsibilities with non-recoverable costs. It is recommended that faculty leaders provide a payment schedule and details explaining the deadlines and withdraw policy for the program.