The Institute for American Universities & The American College of the Mediterranean

(IAU-ACM)

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

France, Fall 2020

INTRODUCTION AND GOALS

IAU-ACM's goal is to provide a safe learning environment for its students, faculty, staff, and administrators. While the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects will continue to evolve both in the U.S. and abroad, IAU-ACM is putting plans into place to best respond to the needs of its community. Through transparent protocols and measures, IAU-ACM aims to work towards a common goal of institutional preparedness that will inspire confidence for international travel amongst partner universities, students, and families. The plan assumes that international borders are open, travel restrictions have been loosened, and on-the-ground restrictions continue to ease. IAU-ACM will reevaluate and update the plan on an ongoing basis using the guidance of national and local government officials and health professionals in France and Spain.

PLAN

1. Access to Testing/Protocols for Positive Tests/Exposure

Access to testing is paramount to providing a healthy and safe learning environment. To support safe entry and re-entry into the community, IAU-ACM plans to utilize testing in the following ways:

- For students:
  - When boarding a direct flight to France, all students will need to present a negative COVID-19 test from the previous 72 hours. IAU-ACM will also review this negative COVID-19 test from students upon arrival in Aix-en-Provence. Students who are already in-country prior to the arrival date (not arriving via plane on the program arrival date) will be required to take a COVID-19 test and present negative results within 5 days of arrival and before entering IAU-ACM facilities or participating in any IAU-ACM events.
  - Ten days after the start of the term, all students will be tested again (facilitated by IAU-ACM).
  - After the ten day mark, students will be tested upon showing COVID-19-related symptoms.
  - If a student receives a positive test, IAU-ACM will enact quarantine and contact tracing protocols recommended by local health officials and the student will be required to remain

in quarantine until cleared by a health professional. Students may be relocated during the quarantine, and if so, students will not incur any costs. Students who test positive will be able to continue their studies remotely, assuming their health allows them to do so.

- For homestay hosts: All IAU-ACM hosts will be tested within 72 hours prior to the students' arrival, and thereafter only upon showing COVID-19-related symptoms. If a host receives a positive test at any point during the semester, the residing student will be removed from the homestay and placed in an alternative homestay, residence hall, or apartment at no cost to the student. IAU-ACM will work with the host and enact quarantine and contact tracing protocols, as necessary.

- For faculty/staff/administrators: All IAU-ACM administrators, faculty, and staff will be tested within 72 hours prior to the students' arrival and thereafter only upon showing COVID-19-related symptoms. If anyone receives a positive test, they will be put into quarantine and follow contact tracing protocols recommended by local health officials.

- For outside vendors including internship agency personnel: Any outside vendors with whom IAU-ACM contracts for student services will be pre-screened. In the event any vendor tests positive, they will be removed immediately from contact with any IAU-ACM students and personnel.

Exposure: If, through contact tracing or other means, someone in the IAU-ACM community has been identified as having been exposed to the virus, IAU-ACM will engage in the following measures:

- Support testing of individual

- Enforce physical isolation, including but not limited to:
  - Temporary relocation of housing (hotel)
  - Remote course delivery
- Students, faculty, staff, and host families are strongly to download and activate the STOPCovid app (contact tracing app used by the French Government)

2. Facilities Maintenance, Supporting Physical Distancing and Wellness Protocols

IAU-ACM will focus efforts on protocols that will help provide a safe learning environment for the entire community:

- Converting facilities to a low-density model, which includes:
  - Conducting on-site orientation virtually, with small student groups entering campus on an alternating basis.
  - Limiting access to facilities to only IAU-ACM students, faculty, staff, and administration. Outside visitors will not be permitted without prior approval from the on-site administration.
  - Recording temperature of all students, faculty, staff, and administration prior to entry into facilities.
  - Desks in all classrooms will be placed six feet apart. Courses with higher enrollments will use larger classrooms. IAU-ACM will place a cap on course enrollments when needed to ensure adequate social distancing.
  - Modifying course schedules as needed to reduce course overlap/student traffic and to allow longer breaks between classes (for cleaning purposes).

- Restricting student capacity in common areas/study areas by removing chairs/tables to ensure proper physical distancing; Identify allowable occupancy to control workflow and/or establish maximum attendance.
- Placing markers on the floors to indicate appropriate social distancing
- Ongoing health monitoring of the IAU-ACM community
  - Students, faculty, and staff will be required to take their temperature on a daily basis prior to coming to IAU-ACM.
  - Those with elevated temperatures will be required to self-isolate and IAU-ACM will follow up with health recommendations including testing protocols
- Enhanced cleaning protocols and supporting good hygiene
  - All building facilities will be cleaned and disinfected twice daily
  - Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected between class sessions (class schedules will be modified as needed to allow time for cleaning rotations)
  - Hand sanitizers will be available in all facilities, including entrances, common areas, and classrooms.
  - Signage will be posted throughout facilities (reinforcing good hygiene, awareness of COVID-19 symptoms, protocols to follow, etc.).
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements
  - Upon arrival, students will receive a Welcome Kit, which will include a cloth face mask, a COVID-19 Student Preparedness Guide, a pair of gloves, and a small bottle of hand sanitizer. Students will be required to bring a thermometer with them to the program for temperature monitoring.
  - IAU-ACM will enforce any local/national government PPE requirements for individuals in IAU-ACM facilities. Therefore, face masks will be required at all times while inside IAU-ACM facilities. IAU-ACM will make required PPE available to personnel and students.

3. Providing Clear Guidelines for Homestays/Housing

- With some exceptions, IAU-ACM will restrict the number of students per homestay to one, and thus students will have a private bedroom.
- IAU-ACM will pre-screen each host and require them to follow a set of guidelines for keeping their home clean and disinfected.
- Hosts and students will be required to follow guidance on physical distancing and PPE.

4. Engaging and Flexible Academic Structure

- Courses are designed with a flexible structure and can be transitioned to hybrid or remote instruction at any moment.

5. Updated Policies

- To protect students, their peers, and others around them, IAU-ACM may prohibit students from traveling outside a certain geographic area. Otherwise students may be subjected to local quarantine regulations upon return to campus.

- IAU-ACM will continue to monitor the health and safety situation abroad and may implement policies, restrictions, and requirements in an effort to protect the well-being of the IAU-ACM community.

6. Ongoing Communication with IAU-ACM Community

Paramount to this plan is the constant communication IAU-ACM pledges to execute as necessary including contacting a student's U.S. institution and family in the event of a positive student test or positive host test. Likewise, IAU-ACM's COVID-19 Plan and further updates to it will be available on IAU's website (www.iau.edu) and ACM's website (www.acmfrance.org).