



***The Institute for American Universities (IAU) &
The American College of the Mediterranean (ACM)***

**COVID-19 Student Preparedness Guide
Informed Consent Form & Behavioral Commitment
France, Fall 2020**

Introduction:

IAU-ACM's goal is to provide a safe learning environment for its students, faculty, staff, and administrators. This guide will illustrate how France is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and describe the COVID-19 procedures and policies you should follow while in France.

France has an excellent public health system and put into place a robust response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many European countries, it went into lockdown (called *confinement* in French) in mid-March and began a gradual reopening in May. The hardest hit parts of the country were the Paris region and the Alsace region. The virus is still active in France but at present most businesses are open, and schools and universities have opened for in-person teaching, supplemented in some cases by remote teaching. Mask use is widespread and is required by law inside any public space such as stores, offices, schools, and places of worship. France has put into place strong testing and contact tracing procedures to manage clusters of COVID-19 when they emerge. Testing is widely available.

The following guidelines will help you have a safe and productive stay in France. Keep in mind that COVID-19 is a new disease, and guidelines may change based on new knowledge and developments. IAU/ACM is in regular contact with local and national authorities and will update guidance on a regular basis.

COVID-19 Testing and Tracking: Anyone coming from the U.S. is required to have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of boarding a flight. Any student already in Aix en Provence or arriving from another location is required to show a negative COVID-19 test result within five days prior to the start of their program (September 23 for Early Start/September 28 for regular term). IAU-ACM will also facilitate testing of all students 10 days after the beginning of classes. After the ten-day mark, students will be tested upon showing COVID-19-related symptoms. All staff and host families were tested prior to your arrival. If you receive a positive test, IAU-ACM will enact quarantine and contact tracing protocols recommended by local health officials and you will be required to remain in quarantine until cleared by a health professional. You may be relocated during the quarantine, and if so, you will not incur any costs for the relocation. During quarantine, you will be able to continue your studies remotely. To aid in contact tracing efforts, IAU-ACM recommends you download the *STOPCovid* app, which is a contact tracing app used by the French Government. It uses Bluetooth technology and does not collect personal data or use GPS signals to locate you.

Taking Your Temperature/Monitoring Symptoms: IAU/ACM recommends that you take your temperature every morning prior to coming to school, and that you keep track of your temperature. In addition, thermometers are available at the welcome desk and the Wellness Center in Manning Hall, at the Library in the Centre d'Etudes Françaises, and at the Marchutz School of Fine Arts.

Regularly self-assess for COVID-19 symptoms. If you feel feverish or exhibit COVID-19-related symptoms, alert a member of staff immediately.

Symptoms of COVID-19



Sanitary Guidelines in the Community: In France, masks are required inside any public place, such as stores, offices, schools, and places of worship, as well as in many outside areas. Masks are required for all public transport. In Aix-en-Provence, and many other cities in our region, masks are also required when outside. Many other French cities, including Paris, have similar rules. These rules are adjusted on a regular basis and you should always carry a mask and follow local instructions. Failure to wear a mask when required may subject you to a fine of 135 Euros from the local authorities, for which IAU-ACM is not responsible.

At IAU-ACM: Masks and social distancing are required in all IAU-ACM buildings and classrooms, except when alone in a private office. Classrooms have been set up to maintain proper social distancing. Please do not move desks in classrooms. There are posted occupancy limits and social distancing indicators in IAU-ACM classrooms and libraries. You should wash your hands frequently and use the sanitizing gel and wipes available throughout IAU-ACM buildings.

Host Families: IAU-ACM pre-screened your host family prior to your arrival to ensure they had a recent negative COVID-19 test and follow proper sanitary procedures. You should follow best practice as well, washing your hands regularly and self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms. Masks in your host family residence are not required unless someone exhibits COVID-19 symptoms. If someone in your host family contracts COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19 at any point during the semester, IAU-ACM will remove you from the homestay and place you in an alternative homestay, residence hall, or apartment at no cost to you. IAU-ACM will work with the host and enact quarantine and contact tracing protocols, as necessary. If you are required to quarantine, you will be able to continue to follow classes remotely.

Social and Cultural Life: As previously noted, masks and proper social distancing are required in all establishments receiving the public, as well as in many outside public areas. Restaurants, cafes and bars are open, with some restrictions. Nightclubs are closed. Most museums are open. Beaches and parks are open. In Aix en Provence and the surrounding area, meetings of more than 10 people in public are restricted. Large gatherings, such as for concerts and sporting events, are limited. Even if permitted, at this time IAU-ACM recommends against participation in any large inside gathering.

Travel: COVID-19-related travel restrictions exist in Europe, including within the Schengen space of the EU, and can change at a moment's notice. IAU-ACM recommends you not make any travel plans until after your arrival in France, so that you can be fully informed on any restrictions. Always check with IAU-ACM personnel and relevant authorities before traveling. Always use the IAU-ACM [travel tracker](#) so that we can contact you if necessary. IAU-ACM recommends you privilege travel within the region and avoid travel that crosses international borders.

Depending on circumstances IAU-ACM may at times prohibit travel outside the region or to specific destinations. Failure to follow IAU-ACM travel guidelines may result in a mandatory quarantine upon your return.

Communication: The COVID-19 officer at IAU-ACM is Vice President Philip Breeden. Do not hesitate to contact him (philip.breeden@iau.edu) with any questions or concerns. IAU-ACM will regularly update this guidance. IAU-ACM's full COVID-19 Plan is available on IAU's website (www.iau.edu) and ACM's website (www.acmfrance.org). This guide is posted in the *Fall 2020 Students: Aix-en-Provence Team*.