**COVID-19 TRAVEL POLICY UPDATE**

Effective October 4, 2021

The University has revised its COVID-19 travel policy, effective October 4, 2021. **Fully vaccinated travelers[[1]](#footnote-1) do not need to seek review and approval by the Pandemic Travel Review Committee (PTRC)** **prior to travel, regardless of destination.**

Travelers who are not fully vaccinated are still required to submit a Travel Risk Acknowledgement form to PTRC for approval prior to University-supported foreign travel. The University strongly recommends foregoing travel, both domestic and international, by individuals who are not fully vaccinated. Given current COVID-19 conditions, as well as public health guidelines, the PTRC is unlikely to grant unvaccinated travelers permission for foreign travel in Autumn Quarter 2021.

All travelers, regardless of vaccine status, must follow all Illinois, Chicago and destination public health guidance while en route, while at their destination, and upon return, including [CDC guidance for domestic travel](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html) or [CDC guidance for foreign travel](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html), as applicable, for their vaccination status.

All travelers, regardless of vaccine status, engaged in foreign travel must submit ISOS and [UChicago Traveler](https://traveltoolkit.uchicago.edu/) registration prior to departure.

Foreign travel by travelers who are not fully vaccinated is not permitted unless (i) The travel has been approved by the dean or their designee after review of a travel waiver request form, and (ii) the travel **has been approved by PTRC**. This approval requirement applies regardless of the State Department travel advisory level of the destination.

For purposes of this limited PTRC approval requirement, travel supported by the University includes:

* + 1. Travel that is completed within the course and scope of employment at the University, regardless of funding source;
    2. Travel that is organized or facilitated by University personnel, regardless of funding source;
    3. Travel that is directly related to, or in support of, academic research or fieldwork;
    4. Travel that is funded, in full or in part, by the University or University-managed funds (including grants, stipends, scholarships, fellowships, and financial aid, and also including University-sponsored travel by prospective hires);
    5. Travel associated with programs that are pre-approved for academic credit or for which academic credit will be sought.  This includes study abroad, short-term and immersion programs of any duration, and research that is tied to academic credit;
    6. Travel that is accompanied by a University faculty, other academic appointee, postdoctoral researcher, or staff member acting in their role as a University employee; and
    7. Travel that is undertaken by one or more members of a student organization officially recognized and sponsored by a University unit, when the purpose of travel is within the scope and mission of the University.

Requests by travelers who are not fully vaccinated will be reviewed in light of the following considerations:

* The need to travel in order to achieve the anticipated benefit, including any time sensitivity of the proposed travel, and the impact to the underlying project if travel is delayed;
* The potential risk to personal health and safety of the traveler(s) and others with whom they may come into contact during travel, taking into account the traveler’s unvaccinated status, conditions in the travel destination, availability and quality of medical assistance, lodging arrangements, and available public health and governmental guidance;
* The University’s ability to assist in a return to the United States in emergency circumstances, and access to healthcare at the travel location;
* The risk to the health and safety of University faculty, other academic appointees, postdoctoral researchers, staff, and students, and the University’s surrounding communities, upon return; and
* Other factors that may be relevant.

Even if travel is permissible under U.S. travel restrictions and University policy, local guidelines of the destination country regarding public health and safety must be considered and adhered to throughout travel. Travelers should be aware that they may be subject to quarantine and/or testing requirements at their destination and/or when returning to the U.S. and may face restrictions upon entry in their destination country. Travelers who are not U.S. citizens may face additional requirements or restrictions upon their return to the U.S. Additional information about foreign travel may be found on the U.S. State Department website at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>.

**Travelers who are not fully vaccinated and who are seeking approval for foreign travel should submit a signed Travel Risk Acknowledgement form (below).**

No Travel Risk Acknowledgement form is required of fully vaccinated travelers. Travelers who are not fully vaccinated must submit the form to their department chair and their Dean or head of administrative unit (or their designee) for review and, if they approve, signature. The Dean or head of administrative unit (or their designee) should send the completed and signed materials to PTRC at [risk@uchicago.edu](mailto:risk@uchicago.edu). Members of the PTRC are:

* Melina Hale, Vice Provost and William Rainey Harper Professor in Organismal Biology and Anatomy and the College
* Ingrid Gould, Associate Provost
* Russ Herron, Senior Associate General Counsel
* Kenyatta Futterman, Office of Risk Management
* Eric Benjaminson, Assistant Director for Health and Safety, Office of Study Abroad

1. Being fully vaccinated means two weeks after the second dose of a two-dose vaccine, or two weeks after a one-dose vaccine. The vaccine must be one that is authorized by the FDA or WHO under emergency use authorization/listing or full authorization. The current list of authorized vaccines meeting these requirements can be found [here](https://goforward.uchicago.edu/faqs/#vaccination-policies) on the GoForward website. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)