

COVID-19: SAFETY AND HEALTH PROTOCOLS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

VACCINATION:

ALL international students participating in USFQ programs are required to have a complete vaccination card and at least 1 booster dose, without exception.

Please contact USFQ in order to understand the current requirements for entering the country and the Galapagos Islands, regarding testing for COVID.

MASK USE:

Using a mask is mandatory in the following cases:

- In open and closed spaces for people with respiratory symptoms.
- For people who carry out activities in the Dental Clinic, Hospital (School of Medicine) and in the Veterinary Clinic.
- In classrooms and/or laboratories that require it due to the nature of their activities.
- In closed confined spaces such as closed transport units, small classrooms and/or laboratories, and healthcare facilities.

Additionally, the use of a mask is recommended in the following cases:

- In closed spaces such as classrooms, offices and laboratories, regardless of the size and capacity established in each space.
- In open and closed spaces for people with aggravating conditions and in conditions of vulnerability.

PRESENCE OF SYMPTOMS:

SYMPTOMS INCLUDE fever, sore throat, cough, dyspnea (shortness of breath), loss of taste and smell, malaise, and/or bilateral pulmonary infiltrates (radiological finding).

In the presence of symptoms, report your case immediately to coronavirus@usfq.edu.ec and OPI. The following isolation measures will be considered for people who test positive:

- Isolation can be discontinued at least 5 days **after the first positive viral test** (day 0 through day 5, with day 0 being the date their specimen was collected for the positive test).
- These people should continue to properly wear a well-fitted mask around others at home and in public for 5 additional days (day 6 through day 10) after the 5-day isolation period.
- If a person develops symptoms after testing positive, their 5-day isolation period should start over (day 0 changes to the first day of symptoms).

OPI and USFQ will consider additional measures, if needed and depending on each case, according to the guidelines provided by the United States CDC.

RISK CONTACT:

A person who, from 2 days before and up to 14 days after the confirmed case showed symptoms, **has been in face-to-face contact (i) without a mask, (ii) within a meter, and (iii) for more than 15 minutes, with a probable or confirmed case of SARS-CoV-2 infection.**

People who have directly cared for a probable or confirmed case of SARS-CoV-2 infection without adequate personal protective equipment are also considered risk contacts.

THAT IS WHY IT IS RECOMMENDED TO USE A MASK FOR THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF TIME POSSIBLE. THIS WILL REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF BEING A RISK CONTACT AND HAVING TO LEAVE ACTIVITIES.

Given the specific requirement to attend international programs with a complete vaccination card and at least 1 booster dose, in the event of being a risk contact, QUARANTINE SHOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT, but YOU SHOULD WEAR A MASK PERMANENTLY AND MANDATORILY when attending the activities. On day 5 since the contact with the confirmed case, a COVID test will be requested.

If you were a risk contact, report your case immediately to coronavirus@usfq.edu.ec and to OPI.

SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS WITH COVID OR THOSE IN ISOLATION:

USFQ will provide the following support to participants with COVID or those who have to isolate due to exposure:

- Arrange additional testing, as required;
- Accommodation, with all meals provided as per the dietary restriction. If participants are staying at a host family: they will remain there and the host family will provide additional support/meals.
- Additional medical support, should the participants health deteriorate. This can include medical evacuation, support with the international insurance, and outreach to host university and participant's family, as needed

****USFQ can help coordinate and arrange these services, but each participant is responsible for any additional costs not covered by the program fees.****

CLASSES FOR STUDENTS IN QUARANTINE:

If any students are unable to attend class:

- The class should be taught through Zoom, a session must be created with the option to record it on the cloud.
- Professors should create and share the Zoom ID with students the day before class.
- Students on campus must turn off Wi-Fi to secure a more stable connection for the students on zoom.
- Students off campus must connect to the live session. If they are unable to connect, professors should share Zoom recording link after class. Please send the recording ASAP.
- Professors must reach out to students and discuss alternatives and other changes, taking into consideration the student health and wellbeing, as well as the (in)ability to access the internet at home.

USFQ MAY CONDUCT ADDITIONAL, PERIODIC, SYSTEMATIC, AND RANDOM TESTS FOR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND PARTICIPANTS:

USFQ reserves the right to conduct periodic, random testing. If individuals test positive or are found to have been in close contact with a known COVID positive case, they will have to isolate accordingly.

COVID REPORTING

USFQ may share a report known COVID positive and close contacts with local authorities, professors, and other relevant operational staff, as needed. This information will be considered confidential.