1 INTRODUCTION

The following document does not intend to interpret information provided by the Italian authorities, nor does it seek to advise readers. It only serves to gather relevant information in a concise manner useful to the AACUPI members. The working group seeks to provide a summary, in English, of information that is publicly accessible from the Veneto Region and from the Italian governmental websites such as:

- The Italian government and the ensemble of its Ministries
- Italian Consular offices
- Local government resources & announcements
- Protocols established by Italian Regions

The Italian government has put in place a 24/7 hotline (English speaking operators are available) # 1500, from abroad the numbers to call are: +39 0232008345 or +39 0283905385

Italian Government contact tracing APP, called Immuni, can be downloaded from https://www.immuni.italia.it/

General recommendations for containing the spread of the virus are:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and clean surfaces with chlorine or alcohol-based disinfectants
- Avoid crowded places and keep a distance of at least one meter from others
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Stay at home if you are elderly or have a weakened immune system
- Avoid handshakes, hugs and sharing bottles and glasses with others
- Cover mouth and nose with a mask
- If you have flu-like symptoms stay at home, do not go to the emergency room or doctor’s office, but call your general practitioner, pediatrician, primary care out-of-hours service (Guardia medica) or regional information hotline 800 462 340
2 INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

2A. ENTERING ITALY & SCHENGEN FROM THE UNITED STATES

Travelling rules vary, depending on the country of origin or destination and the reasons for travelling. Italian laws establish different lists of countries for various scenarios of entry. These lists, from LIST A to E, and other related information can be consulted on the Ministry of health website on the left.

Travel to/from the U.S. is allowed only for specific reasons, such as work, health or study, or absolute urgency, returning to one's home, domicile, or dwelling. Currently, travel for tourism is not allowed.

On entering Italy from any of Countries in List E which includes the USA travellers:

- will be required to fill in a self-declaration form (you can download it here), specifying the reason for entering/returning to Italy. The form must then be presented to the competent authorities if requested, this includes airlines officials. Please be prepared to show any supporting documents including those listed in Section D below and to reply to any questions from the competent authorities.
- If applicable, testing requirements and testing options are prompted by an individual’s presence in or transit through particular countries.
- must reach their final destination in Italy by private means only (domestic airport transit is allowed, however without leaving the dedicated areas of the terminal).
- must self-isolate for 14 days (see section 3B) if travelling with a non-COVID tested international flight*

Students are advised to purchase direct flights from the US to Italy on “Covid-free flights” since layovers in other countries could be risky and complicate quarantine protocol upon arrival at your final destination.

Health screening procedures are in place at airports and other ports of entry.

Venice Marco Polo airport

Currently it is possible to do an antigen test also at Venice Marco Polo airport at a cost of € 35.00. Info here: https://www.veneziaairport.it/en/news/329/23‐01‐2021‐quick‐swab‐test‐from‐0300‐am.html

* Rome Fiumicino airport

mandatory 14-day isolation period is required for anyone coming from the US except for travelers flying directly into Rome (Fiumicino airport) from JFK, Newark or Hartsfield Airports with negative molecular or antigen tests. Even if tested before departure, all passengers will be tested again (molecular or antigenic test) upon arrival at Fiumicino airport, and if negative again, will be exempted from the subsequent 14-day mandatory quarantine. These regulations will be effective until March 5, 2021.

Current entry and exit requirements:

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ website
https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/ministero/normativaonline/decreto‐iorestoacasa‐domande‐frequenti/focus‐cittadini‐italiani‐in‐rientro‐dall‐estero‐e‐cittadini‐stranieri‐in‐italia.html

U.S. Embassy
https://it.usembassy.gov/covid‐19‐information/
2B. ENTERING ITALY FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES:

For entry into Italy, in case of staying in or transiting through countries in List C in the 14 days prior to entering, in addition to filling in a self-declaration, it is mandatory to inform the department of prevention of the competent ULSS of one, entry into Italy, undergo molecular or antigenic tests with a negative result in the 48 hours before entering the Italian territory. In case of failure to present the certificate relating to the prescribed molecular or antigenic test, you are subjected to fiduciary isolation and health surveillance.

2C. STUDENT VISAS & PREDEPARTURE DOCUMENTS

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, Italy is currently accepting international travelers for study purposes.

Anyone coming to Italy for study purposes under a US/Canadian/Australian passport and wishing to stay in the Schengen Area for more than 90 days needs a student visa.

All persons traveling to Italy from any foreign location are required to provide their airline or Italian law enforcement officials with a self-declaration form prior to travel.

Students traveling to Italy for programs of study should be provided with the following documentation in Italian and English attesting to their student status to be presented both when boarding transportation in the US and upon arrival in Italy:

- a letter of confirmation or enrollment issued by the home institution, attesting that the student has been officially admitted and will be attending the study abroad program in Italy, giving some basic details, such as period of study, location, courses to be attended, housing arrangements in Italy;
- A letter of confirmation issued by the Italian branch program with the same details of the letter described above;
- a program-issued self-certification document stating recognition from the Italian Ministry of the University, including a copy of such authorization, if available
- a letter from the program to the student giving clear detailed information regarding transportation to their final destination.

2D. MOBILITY IN ITALY

Nationally, there are regulations to follow. These include a curfew, wearing masks, restricted access or closure to the public of restaurants, coffee bars, clubs including facilities such as gyms, museums, swimming pools, cinemas, and theaters.

Other mobility restrictions within Italy depend on a regional classification. The current state of emergency does give authority to regional governments to exercise more strict guidelines and limitations than those required by the national government. An up-to-date color-coded map is located here: http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/domande-frequenti-sulle-misure-adottate-dal-governo/15638.
In some, indicated by a color-coded system, movement outside your city of residence/domicile and to/from other regions may be prohibited except for work, study, health reasons or for emergencies. A self declaration form is required (available here: https://www.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/2020-10/modello_autodichiarazione_editabile_ottobre_2020.pdf)

Classification of regions:

**RED AREA:** Curfew 24h, permitted walking and running close to home. Traveling not allowed to other areas. Museums, theaters, cinemas, swimming pools and sport centers are closed. Shops are closed except for grocery stores. Restaurants and bars are closed 24/7, take-away allowed until 10pm.

**ORANGE Areas:** Curfew 10pm-5am. Traveling not allowed to other areas. In case of urgency a self-declaration form is required (available here: https://www.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/2020-10/modello_autodichiarazione_editabile_ottobre_2020.pdf). Museums, theaters, cinemas, swimming pools and gyms are closed. Sport Centers for outdoor activity stay open. Shopping centers are closed on weekends. Shops are open. Restaurants and bars are closed 24/7, take-away allowed until 10pm.

**YELLOW Areas:** Curfew 10pm-5am. Traveling allowed only to other yellow areas. Self-certification forms are required from 10pm to 5am (available here: https://static.gedidigital.it/repubblica/pdf/2020/politica/modello_autodichiarazione_editabile_ottobre_2020.pdf) or when traveling to red and orange zones. Museums, theaters, cinemas, swimming pools and gyms are closed. Sport Centers for outdoor activity stay open. Shopping centers are closed on weekends. Shops are open. Restaurants and bars close at 6pm, take-away allowed until 10pm.

**2E. MOBILITY IN EUROPE**

We strongly suggest that student expectations be set realistically, knowing that it is still too soon to fully know how open Italy (and its individual regions) or Europe will be to travellers in the coming months.

**3 HEALTHCARE, SUPPORT & SERVICES**

**3A. SELF-PROTECTION RULES:**

1. **Wear a face mask**

   Wearing your face mask is mandatory in all outdoor or indoor spaces except at home. If you are exercising or eating at a restaurant or café you may remove the mask temporarily. Single-use or washable facemasks are allowed. If you are experiencing symptoms, you should wear a certified surgical mask. Surgical mask standards are established by legislation UNI EN ISO 14683-2019 (www.salute.gov.it) and can be purchased at Italian pharmacies, personal hygiene/household supplies stores and most grocery chains (approx. 50 cents/each).
Students are required to wear face masks at all times in the classroom and university facilities.

2. Wash your hands:

Washing your hands frequently helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. You should wash your hands with soap and water for 60 seconds. Use a hand sanitizer (with +70% of alcohol) if you cannot wash your hands with soap and water.

In particular, wash your hands:

- If you touched items or surfaces that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, shopping carts, electronic cashier registers/PIN pads, touch screens, or other.
- Before you touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Before eating

Hand-sanitizing stations must be provided to customers in every shop and in all public buildings throughout Italy.

3. Keep social distance:

Keep a physical distance of at least 1 meter (3 ft) from others in outdoor and indoor public spaces and keep a distance of 2 meters (6 ft) from other people while practicing sports or exercising.

4. Monitor your health:

Monitor your temperature daily and do not leave your home if your temperature is higher than 37.5°C (99.5°F).

3B. QUARANTINE UPON ARRIVAL:
Upon arrival travellers from the U.S. are required to:

- quarantine for 14 days ONLY IF travelling with a non COVID -tested international flight
- use private transportation services (like private shuttle, taxi or private bus) to reach final destination/housing from the airport (they are not allowed to use public transportation)
- inform the local healthcare authorities (ULSS), as well as the local general doctor upon arrival.

For Venice contact: 800 938 811 or infocovid-19@aulss3.veneto.it - ULSS 3 SERENISSIMA
For Padua contact: 800 032 973 or emergenzacovid19@aulss6.veneto.it - ULSS 6 EUGANEA
For other regions or areas in Veneto see here: http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioContenutiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&id=5371&area=nuovoCoronavirus&menu=aChiRivolgersi

The person in quarantine must:
1. **ANTIGEN (RAPID) TEST**  
   nasopharyngeal swab  
   **FIRST SCREENING**  
   Prescribed or private laboratories  
   Cost: free or from €25 to €50

2. **PCR MOLECULAR TEST**  
   nasopharyngeal swab  
   **DEFINITE TEST**  
   Prescribed  
   Cost: free or approx € 70

3. **ANTIBODY TEST**  
   Blood test  
   Search ONLY antibodies  
   Prescribed or private laboratories/pharmacies  
   Cost: free or from €25 to €50

- measure body temperature twice each day (in the morning and in the evening);  
- stay in isolation for fourteen (14) days from the date of arrival and avoid any social contacts;  
- not leave the flat or hotel room for the entire quarantine period;  
- be reachable by phone or WhatsApp at all times (in order to monitor for symptoms)  
- check email daily

Food/goods may be received by contactless delivery.

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### 3C. TESTING:

The FDA ([https://www.fda.gov/media/138094/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/138094/download)) lists the following types of COVID-19 testing available in Italy:

- **Antigen testing**  
  It is a rapid nasopharyngeal swab that can be done anywhere in a short time. This test is often used in the Veneto health system as a first immediate and widespread test that allows a rapid screening of suspects cases. The test can be prescribed by your doctor at no cost or it can be done independently at private laboratories or pharmacies at a variable cost (from € 25 to €50). Results are available within 5 minutes to a few hours.

- **PCR molecular testing (molecolare):**  
  This nasopharyngeal swab is available in Italy through the public health system and requires a prescription by a local doctor or an ASL medical provider. In the Veneto region, this is used often to reaffirm a positive case spotted by an antigen testing. It is a free test for residents or National Health System card holders. Otherwise, a fee (aprox € 70) is applied. Time for results: 2-4 days.

- **Antibody testing**  
  The serological (sierologico) blood test is an alternative screening test, but varies widely in accuracy. The test can be prescribed by your general practitioner at no cost, or it can be done independently at private laboratories or pharmacies at a variable cost (from € 25 to €50).

**Who can be tested?**  
- anyone with symptoms or who has come into contact with someone positive to COVID-19 when health authorities deem it necessary to be tested immediately.  
- anyone who has the need to know his/her negativity/positivity to the test, is willing to pay for a private lab test or has a doctor’s prescription.
3D. TRACKING:
The Ministerial Decree (Annex 18 - DPCM 07_09_2020) refers to institutes of higher education and states that universities will appoint a “COVID Manager.” It is the duty of the COVID Manager to report to the public health authorities if COVID-19 cases occur among students, faculty and staff.

The Italian authorities highly recommend the use of the immuni app to facilitate the tracking of COVID-19 infections.

NOTE: Students, staff or faculty who test positive for COVID-19 must immediately inform their Program Director, their COVID Manager, and the local doctor (medico di base). They must also provide a list of all people they have had contact with in the 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms. The COVID-19 infected person must self-isolate until they are cleared by Italian Public Health authorities (ASL) to return to work or school.

Contact tracing is an essential public health action to fight the ongoing epidemic.

3E. QUARANTINE OR ISOLATION PERIOD GUIDELINES

if a person tests positive for COVID-19 he/she needs to follow these rules:

- **For asymptomatic positive cases:**
  A person without any symptoms who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 10 days, monitor body temperature twice a day and pay attention to any symptoms. If symptoms arise, the doctor must be contacted. After the isolation period of 10 days, the doctor or the Public Health Service will prescribe a molecular biology test. If the test is negative, the isolation period is over.

- **For symptomatic positive cases:**
  A person with symptoms who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms and follow the doctor’s instructions. After the isolation period of 10 days, including at least 3 days without any symptoms, the doctor or the Public Health Service will prescribe a molecular biology test. If the test is negative, the isolation period is over. If the test is positive, the isolation continues for 7 more days after which the test is repeated.

- **For long term positive cases:**
  If a person has no symptoms, but continues to test positive for COVID-19, the isolation period may end at the 21st day if symptoms have been absent for 7 days.

If a person has been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 he/she needs to:

- Follow a 14 days quarantine period with active surveillance* or
Register to the National Healthcare Policy:

Venice: 041 2608122 - 041 2608127


- Follow a 10 days quarantine period with active surveillance, if there is a negative test result on the tenth day, the isolation time may end.

* Active surveillance consists in being contacted by a public health worker on a daily basis for information on health conditions.

3F. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE & HOSPITALIZATION

Public healthcare services continue to function fully throughout Italy.

Access to all Italian public health services and hospitals is possible through private health insurance or Italian public health insurance. Private services are also available. Students usually have an International Healthcare plan through their study program.

U.S. Study Abroad students enrolled in a program can purchase a SSN policy (a National Healthcare Policy - Servizio Sanità Nationale SSN). It is possible to register for the SSN through the local Health authority (ULSS 3 for Venice - 041 2608122 - 041 2608127; ULSS 6 for Padua https://www.aulss6.veneto.it/index.cfm?action=mys.page&content_id=675).

Those students who must apply for a Permit of Stay (enrolled in a program with a duration of more than 150 days) automatically have SSN coverage.

International Healthcare plans or SSN registration give access to a local general practitioner (medico di base), to receive free basic health services and to obtain prescriptions for medications. The general practitioner guides patients through the COVID testing process.

COVID-19 HOSPITALS

The regional health system is organized to host COVID patients as well as maintaining routine operations. The number of patients occupying Intensive care beds dictates the numbers of designated COVID-19 only hospital. The HUB hospitals are intended to manage the critical COVID-19 cases while the SPOKE hospitals are managing less critical cases.

COVID-19 HOTELS

The Veneto Region created a network of 20 hotels that can accommodate residents affected with light symptoms who, for specific reasons, cannot quarantine or isolate at home. These hotels operate in conjunction with the local Healthcare network (ULSS).

VENICE
- Staycity aparthotel, Mestre

PADUA
- Casa del Pellegrino

One private structure “Casa a colori” in Padua offers quarantine options - meals served and testing available.
3G. STUDENT SUPPORT

Students and staff are encouraged to adopt practices that support their mental health, and reach out for additional support if they are struggling.

Covid-19 Toll-free number for psychological support available to the general population: 800.833.833. This is the number to contact from abroad: + 39 02.20228733.

For English-speaking mental health providers in the Veneto region, please contact your SA program director. Suggested resources from Student Health Services through any home campus are available. For BU resources for self-care & prevention: http://www.bu.edu/shs/wellness/our-programs/mental-health-wellbeing/wellness-program-kits/

Fitness Recreation center: https://www.bu.edu/fitrec/

Suggested apps for self care & prevention are: Headspace - MoodMission – or COVID Coach or Moodfit or Take a Break! - Meditations for Stress Relief

4. GOVERNMENTAL GUIDELINES

4A. PROTOCOLS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Generally, as long as the COVID-19 emergency persists, the Italian government suggests working and teaching remotely whenever possible.

A COVID Manager will be appointed who coordinates and implements protocols and safety measurements and will be in contact with the local health authorities (ULSS).

PERSONNEL

General protocols require workers, i.e. students/faculty/staff to:

- maintain physical distance of at least 1 meter (3ft) to other people
- wash hands frequently and follow general rules of hygiene
- inform the COVID Manager if individuals show any flu-like symptoms while at work
- wear a face mask at all times; when not possible, keep min. 2 meter (6ft) distance.

Workers (students/faculty/staff) are asked to stay home if:

- their temperature is above 37.5°C (99.5° F) or show other flu-like symptoms.
- they are coming from areas of high risk (red zones).
- they have been in contact in the past 14 days with people who tested positive for COVID-19

NOTE: Workers (students/faculty/staff) must declare their compliance with the above-mentioned guidelines on day one of the start of the program activities. Individuals who enter the workplace/facility may be subjected to

★ 37.5°C = 99.5°F
NO ACCESS
body temperature checks. If their temperature is higher than 37.5°C (99.5° F), access will be denied.

**TEACHING AND CLASSROOMS**

Whenever possible, classes should be taught remotely, i.e. online. The hybrid teaching model (face-to-face and remotely) can be used, but if COVID-19 cases rise exponentially, classes must be taught 100% remotely.

Facemasks must be worn at all times in the classroom

In the facility and in the classrooms:

- Daily sanitization and regular cleaning procedures must be implemented
- Hand sanitizer must be available to allow for proper hand hygiene
- Physical distance of min. 1 meter must be kept
- Windows must be opened frequently and every time before a new class session starts
- Group movements (exit and entrance) must be organized in a way to prevent gatherings
- Adequate communication (signage) will be provided to visualize the safety procedures and protocols.

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES**

According to ESU regulations in the Veneto, a student may be admitted upon providing a student declaration of not having been in contact with a COVID-19 patient in the previous 14 days, to not be under quarantine and their temperature will be taken which must be below 37.5°C (99.5° F).

Once admitted to residence students in university residence facilities should observe these guidelines:

- Maintain a physical distance of minimum 1 meter and avoid physical contact
- Clean bathrooms after every use with chlorine-based (bleach) or alcohol (+70%) based products
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or, when not available, use hand sanitizer
- Do not share household items, and after using wash them thoroughly with soap and water
- Do not share linens and towels, and wash them regularly
- Ventilate rooms on a regular basis and leave windows open as much as possible.

During their stay, should a student have a cough, respiratory difficulties with or without a fever above 37,5°C (99,5° F), they must isolate in their room, notify the front desk, notify the regional emergency number and notify their Program COVID manager.

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Fines for violation of current laws vary from € 400 to € 1.000
4B. GENERAL RESTRICTIONS IN VENETO:

The Covid-19 state of emergency has been extended to April 30, 2021 and the current Decree is in effect until March 5, 2021. A country-wide curfew will remain in effect during this period from 10:00pm to 5:00am. During this time, it is also important to remain aware of restrictions in place within your region. Veneto Region information pages are in Italian but here you will find updated information regarding mobility and daily lifestyle protocols in English pertaining to every region: https://reopen.europa.eu/en/map/ITA/6002

Transportation
It is necessary to wear a mask covering nose and mouth on any public transport. A maximum filling capacity of 50% applies. Extraordinary sanitation efforts are implemented on both local and long-distance public transport. Suspensions or limitations to transport services (including international, automotive, railway, air, sea and inland transport) may occur and would be mandated by the Minister of Transport. Updated information can be consulted here: https://reopen.europa.eu/en/map/ITA/7001

Short-term Accommodations
Accommodations in hotel categories are available depending on local governmental protocols. Follow the instructions in Section 2D for information regarding the Veneto region’s current color area status and relative protocol.

This site contains country specific guidelines for being hosted in these types of accommodations: http://www.italia.it/en/useful-info/guidance-standards-for-hospitality-reopening/accommodation-and-short-stays.html

Associated fines for not adhering to protocols

Fines vary from 400 to 1000 euro for violation of the current Italian Decree from not wearing masks to circulating in public if positive with Covid-19. Refer to Section 3 or 4B for current regional and national restrictions. Moreover, for those persons who are awaiting covid-19 test results or who are positive to the test who do not adhere to protocol can face penal sanctions with arrest.
5. ADDITIONAL LINKS

US Embassy Link for Italy:
- https://it.usembassy.gov/
- https://it.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/

US Consulate General Milan:
via Principe Amedeo, 2/10, 20121 MILANO (+39) 02.290351

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation – Crisis Unit Survey for travellers
https://infocovid.viaggiaresicuri.it/index_en.html - (English)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

COVID-19 crisis page on travel.state.gov
AACUPI covid committee for Veneto:

Elisabetta Convento, Mara Levorato, Maura Orlandini and Bonnie Ponthier

AACUPI will do its best to keep the information in this document updated but can take no responsibility for changes in the Student Services information herein described that may become available after the original distribution date of February 15, 2021.