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 Emilia Romagna 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. Emilia Romagna toll free number: 800 033 033.

Italian Government contact tracing APP, called Immuni, can be downloaded here.

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 800 033 033 (MON-FRI 8.30am to 6pm; SAT. 8.30am to 1pm). Bologna: +39 051 2869406 (MON-FRI 8.30am to 1.30pm).
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 allowed through 31 July 2021. More information here.

On entering Italy from any of Countries in List E which includes the US travelers it is 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.
- to fill out the European Digital Passenger Location Form Online
- if applicable, testing requirements and testing options are prompted by an individual’s presence in or transit through particular countries.
- to reach their final destination in Italy by private means only (domestic airport transit is allowed, however without leaving the dedicated areas of the terminal).
- to self-isolate for 10 days (see section 3B) if travelling with a non-COVID tested international flight

Students with programs in Bologna can fly directly into Bologna. Please note that, currently, there are no “COVID-tested flights” landing in Bologna. There are “COVID-tested flights” that land in Milan, Rome, Venice and Naples. See this link for up-to-date information.

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

Bologna G. Marconi airport

All entering passengers must present a negative Covid test taken 48 hours prior to entry in the Italian territory and a self-certification. Check Bologna G. Marconi airport’s website for the latest requirements and documents.

Bologna Airport contact info: +39 051 6479615 (24 hrs) General airport info
European Passenger Locator Form
Online form now mandatory for all travelers to Italy can be completed in English here: [https://app.euplf.eu/#/](https://app.euplf.eu/#/)

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, it is mandatory to complete the online European Passenger Locator Form (dPLF) and undergo molecular or antigenic tests with a negative result in the 48 hours before entering the Italian territory. Persons failing to present the certificate relating to the prescribed molecular or antigenic test, will be subjected to fiduciary isolation and health surveillance.

The Ministry of International Affairs has created a helpful online tool for ascertaining the entry regulations in place, based on where travel initiated (and/or transit).

2C. STUDENT VISAS & PREDEPARTURE DOCUMENTS

Italy is currently accepting international travelers, also 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 complete the European Passenger Locator Form (EUdPLF) prior entering the country.

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
- a student visa, if determined advisable by your program

2D. MOBILITY IN ITALY

Nationwide, there are regulations to follow. These include a curfew (currently 11pm-5am, this will change to 12 midnight-5am as of June 7 2021, and as of June 21 2021 the curfew will be lifted), wearing masks, restricted access or partial 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 gives 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](http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/domande-frequenti-sulle-misure-adottate-dal-governo/15638).

The regional classification is indicated by a color-coded system. In some cases, movement outside the city of residence/domicile and to/from other regions may
be prohibited except for work, study, health reasons or for emergencies, for which a self-declaration form is required.

Classification of regions:

**RED AREA:** Curfew 24h, walking and running close to home is permitted. Traveling to other areas and within the city of residence is not allowed, except to shops listed below, or for emergencies. In these cases a self-declaration form is required. Museums, theaters, cinemas, swimming pools and sport centers are closed. Shops are closed except for grocery stores, pharmacies, newsstands, tobacco shops and those selling basic necessities. Restaurants and bars are closed 24/7, takeaway allowed until 11pm.

**ORANGE Areas:** Curfew currently 11pm-5am (see above for upcoming changes). Traveling to other areas is not allowed, except for work, study, health reasons or for emergencies, for which a self-declaration form is required. Museums, theaters, cinemas, swimming pools and gyms are closed. Sport Centers for outdoor activity stay open. Shops are open. Shopping centers are closed on weekends. Restaurants and bars are closed 24/7, take out allowed until 11pm.

**YELLOW Areas:** Curfew currently 11pm-5am (see above for upcoming changes). Traveling is allowed outside of the city of residence within the same region, and to other yellow areas. The self-declaration form is currently required from 11pm to 5am or when traveling to red and orange zones. Museums, theaters, cinemas, outdoor swimming pools and gyms are open with limited capacity and anti-covid protocols in place. Sport Centers for outdoor activity are open. Stadiums at limited capacity, recreational and social centers will reopen July 1. Shops and shopping centers are open. Restaurants and bars are open for outdoor service only, as of June 1 indoor service at limited capacity will be allowed until 6pm, takeaway allowed until 11pm.

**2E. MOBILITY IN EUROPE**

We strongly suggest that student set realistic expectations, knowing that it is still too soon to know how open Italy (and its individual regions) or Europe will be to travelers 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. 20-50 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 travelers from the U.S. are required to:

- provide a negative molecular or rapid antigen test taken within the last 72 hours prior to entering
- quarantine for 10 days
- after the 10-day quarantine, provide a new negative molecular or antigen test (exceptions to these rules apply to those travelling on COVID-free international flights)
- use private transportation services (e.g. private shuttle, private taxi/car service or private bus) to reach final destination/housing from the airport (use of public transportation is not allowed)
- complete the online European Passenger Locator Form prior to entry, contact the local general doctor (if already assigned through the national healthcare system) upon arrival.

The Emilia-Romagna health department can be contacted for information.

AUSL Emilia-Romagna toll-free number: 800 033 033
AUSL Bologna: (Mon-Fri, 8.30-13.30): 051 286 9406 or infocovid19@ausl.bologna.it

For other city-specific AUSL offices in Emilia-Romagna, see: https://salute.regione.emilia-romagna.it/tutto-sul-coronavirus/numeri-utili

For other regions see: http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioContenutiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&id=5371&area=nuovoCoronavirus&menu=aChiRivolgersi
1. **ANTIGEN (RAPID) TEST**
   - nasopharyngeal swab
   - **FIRST SCREENING**
   - Prescribed or private laboratories
   - **Cost:** free or from €15 to €50

2. **PCR MOLECULAR TEST**
   - nasopharyngeal swab
   - **DEFINITE TEST**
   - Prescribed
   - **Cost:** free or approx. €100

3. **ANTIBODY TEST**
   - Blood test
   - Search ONLY antibodies
   - Prescribed or private laboratories/pharmacies
   - **Cost:** free or from €30 to €60

The person in quarantine must:

- measure body temperature twice each day (in the morning and in the evening);
- stay in isolation for ten (10) 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
- proof to test negative after the tenth day

Food/goods may be received by contactless delivery.

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 Emilia Romagna 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 and it can be done independently at private laboratories or pharmacies at a variable cost (from €15 if you are enrolled into the Regional Health System (SSR), 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 AUSL medical provider. In the Emilia Romagna region, this is used often to confirm a positive case spotted by an antigen testing or to certify the positivity of a suspect case. It is a free test for residents or Regional Health System (SSR) card holders (which you can voluntarily enroll into). Otherwise, a fee (approx. €90-120) is applied. Time for results: 48 hours.

- **Antibody testing**
  - The serological (sierologico) blood test is an alternative screening test, but varies widely in accuracy. The test can be prescribed by the general practitioner of the Regional Health System (SSR) at no cost, or it can be done independently at private laboratories or pharmacies at a variable cost (from €30 to €60).

**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](https://www.fda.gov/media/138094/download)) 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 Regional Public Health authorities (AUSL) 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 14 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 14 days, the doctor of the Regional Health Service (AUSL) will prescribe a second molecular test. If the test is negative, the isolation period is over. If still positive, the person will have to keep his/her isolation for a maximum of 21 days.

- **For symptomatic positive cases:**
  A person with symptoms who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least 14 days after the onset of symptoms and follow the doctor’s instructions. After the isolation period of 14 days, including at least 3 days without any symptoms, the doctor of the Public Health Service will prescribe a second molecular test. If the test is positive, the isolation continues up to the 21st day counting from the first positive test.

- **For long term positive cases:**
  If a person has no symptoms, but continues to test positive for COVID-19, the isolation period ends anyway at the 21st day, counting from the first positive test.

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
- 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 employee 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 for all Italian citizens and all foreign visitors. Services are free for Italian/Regional public health insurance holders or through private insurance providers. Private, paid services are also available. Students usually have an International Healthcare plan provided by their institutions’ study abroad offices, but are advised to buy Regional Public Healthcare Insurance.

U.S. Study Abroad students enrolled in a program can purchase a SSR policy (a Regional Healthcare Policy - Servizio Sanità Regionale). It is possible to register for the SSR through the local Health authority.

AUSL Bologna:  
https://www.ausl.bologna.it/iap_dati/view_prest?b_start:int=0&id=52672; AUSL

AUSL Parma:  
https://www.ausl.pr.it/come_fare/iscrizione/iscrizione_servizio_sanitarionazionale.aspx

Students who must apply for a Permit of Stay (enrolled in a program with a duration of more than 150 days) can decide to purchase a SSR coverage. This coverage gives 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 (totally free).

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 Emilia Romagna Region created a network of 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 (AUSL).

BOLOGNA COVID HOTEL LIST:  

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.

Emergency Psychological Support Teams in Emilia-Romagna: Italian-speaking psychological support is available to the general population in various cities in the region. More information at: https://salute.regione.emilia-romagna.it/tutto-sul-coronavirus/equipe-psicologiche-per-lemergenza

For English-speaking mental health services in the Emilia-Romagna region, please contact your SA program director. Suggested resources from Student Health and Wellness Services through any home campus are available.

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 (AUSL).

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 body temperature checks. If their temperature is higher than 37.5°C (99.5° F), access will be denied.
TEACHING AND CLASSROOMS

Whenever teaching in person is not 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 minimum 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) must be provided to visualize the safety procedures and protocols.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES (when applicable)

According to ER.GO regulations in the Emilia-Romagna region, a student may be admitted upon providing a student declaration stating that they are not under quarantine or in preventive self-isolation, that they do not have symptoms attributable to COVID-19, and that they are not arriving from places where national and regional regulations require an obligatory quarantine or prohibit movement or entry into Italy. Students arriving from places where a mandatory swab test is required will need to present a negative test result before being granted access to the university residence.

For the complete COVID Regulations in University Residences in Emilia-Romagna, visit the following link:

Once admitted to a university residence, some guidelines that students will need to observe are the following (for complete regulations, refer to link above):

- Maintain a physical distance of minimum 1 meter and avoid physical contact
- Clean shared spaces, such as bathrooms and kitchens 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
- Ventilate rooms on a regular basis and leave windows open as much as possible

During their stay, should a student have symptoms such as fever, fatigue, a cough, or non-allergy cold symptoms, they must isolate in their room, notify the front desk of the residence, notify their general practitioner or, alternatively, the local public health service, and notify their Program COVID manager.
4B. GENERAL RESTRICTIONS IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA:

The national Covid-19 state of emergency has been extended to July 31, 2021, but with gradual re-openings subdivided by region. As of June 1, 2021, in Emilia-Romagna (yellow area), the curfew is in effect from 11:00pm to 5:00am. From June 1, bars and restaurants are allowed to serve their clients indoors and outdoors. Updated information on Emilia-Romagna and other Italian regions is available on the [Ministero della Salute website](https://www.salute.gov.it/). As of today, Sardinia, Friuli Venezia Giulia, and Molise are in the White area (no curfew, no restrictions, only masks required). From June 7, Abruzzo, Veneto and Liguria will also be declared White area.

**Transportation**

It is necessary to wear a mask covering nose and mouth on any public means of transport. A maximum filling capacity of 50% applies. Extraordinary sanitation efforts are implemented on both local and long-distance public transport. Some limitations to transport services (including international, automotive, railway, air, sea and inland transport) may occur and would be mandated by the Minister of Transport.

**Short-term Accommodations**

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


**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/)
- [https://it.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/](https://it.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/)

**US Consulate General Florence:**
[https://it.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/florence/](https://it.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/florence/)
Lungarno Vespucci, 38
50123 FIRENZE
Phone: (+39) 055.266.951

**US Consulate General Milan:**
[https://it.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/milan/](https://it.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/milan/)
via Principe Amedeo, 2/10,
20121 MILANO
Phone: (+39) 02.290351
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

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

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

COVID-19 crisis page on travel.state.gov

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