

The Office of Risk Management
International Travel Information Advisory
Updated October 14, 2020

Background

International travel during the pandemic carries significant risk, as reflected by the Government of Canada's [Level 3 travel warning](#) that advises Canadians to "avoid non-essential travel" outside the country. At this time, travel outside Canada by staff, faculty, and students on university business remains suspended unless the travel is considered vital to the academic mission of the university. To undertake international travel you must first receive [appropriate approvals](#).

Risks

The health and safety of our staff and students is the University's top priority. It is important that you are aware and informed that there are **risks, dangers and hazards** associated with participating in international travel, including the possibility of severe or fatal injury. The risks include, but are not limited to:

1. Travel to and from Canada, travel between the various locations that may be included as part of the trip, travel by bus, public or private motor vehicle, train, aircraft and travel to and from all personal activities during the trip;
2. Physical injury due to strenuous activities and encounters with animals or wildlife;
3. Street crime, armed robberies, carjacking, sexual assault, credit card fraud, and diseases not common in Canada;
4. There are many aspects of travel that are outside the direct control of the University. It is always possible that the trip might not be completed or individual activities may be curtailed or cancelled due to weather, illness, political disturbances, terrorism, motor vehicle accidents, transportation problems and/or accidents, tribal violence, failure to perform on part of the travel agents, airlines or tour companies, problems relating to customs, immigration or visa requirements;
5. Medical facilities available may well be of a lower standard than expected in Canada and may be limited;
6. Exposure to materials that may cause an allergic reaction, and the inability to obtain appropriate medical care;
7. Injury or illness arising from participation in activities or functions that are not directly related to the trip activities, including, without limitation, tours, walks, hiking, shopping, sports activities, swimming, dancing, alcohol or drug ingestion, and any injury or loss arising therefrom;
8. **COVID-19:** Any manner of harm, injury illness, death or property damage suffered by or resulting from an outbreak or increased cases of an infectious disease, bacterial or viral, including COVID-19 resulting in:
 - 1) Enactment of government regulations restricting travel inside or outside of the country or the ability to leave, travel through or return to any country including Canada. These regulations can be imposed or changed suddenly and international transportation options could be reduced significantly, making it difficult to travel or return to Canada. The Government of Canada does not have plans to offer further repatriation flights;
 - 2) Inability to obtain appropriate medical assistance including lack of access to medical facilities or medications to treat any illness or condition, inability to obtain essential products and services;
 - 3) Insurance not covering travel or medical expenses;
 - 4) Canadian consulates or embassies limiting their capacity to offer services;
 - 5) Penalties, fines, criminal charges, imprisonment, etc. caused by the failure to comply with local or national regulations relating to an outbreak (whether known or not), including, but not

- limited to, requirements to wear protective equipment, self-isolate or quarantine;
- 6) Increased costs which may include, but are not limited to, quarantine and/or isolation costs imposed to meet local government requirements, extending or cancelling accommodations, escalated cost of travel or food, loss of non-refundable fees or expenses or any portion thereof. The University of Alberta will not be responsible for any additional costs related to taking this trip and that those costs are the responsibility of the traveler.

Acknowledgement

Please ensure you have read and understood the following guidelines:

1. I will follow all rules, guidelines, and health and safety regulations provided by the trip organizers, local officials, or any other governing body with jurisdictional authority, whether verbal or written. I will not violate any law or ordinance, including but not limited to, laws prohibiting the use, possession, growth, manufacture, packaging, or distribution of illegal drugs.
2. It is my sole responsibility to obtain a valid passport or other satisfactory proof of residency as accepted for entrance into and exit from the trip destination(s).
3. I understand that it is my responsibility to learn as much as possible about the risks of the trip and to weigh those risks against the advantages, and to decide whether or not to participate and/or depart earlier than the scheduled departure time.
4. I have read and understood the most current travel advisories for this trip as issued by [Global Affairs Canada](#), and will stay aware of any changes before or during the trip.
5. I should maintain a high level of personal security awareness, monitor local news reports closely, and avoid large crowds or gatherings. I should also be particularly cautious when leaving banks and automated teller machines.
6. I bear sole responsibility for my health while on this trip. It is my responsibility to maintain ample medication and medical supplies, including any personal protective equipment that may be required for the duration of the trip, and to manage any pre-existing health conditions I have or may develop. It is also my responsibility to disclose to the University any health conditions I have prior to this trip. If the University requests it, I will obtain a medical release from my physician authorizing my participation in this trip.
7. I assume full responsibility for all my acts and omissions during this trip, even when I am not involved in formal trip programming. I will use the buddy system whenever possible and where not possible, I will advise those I am working with or living with as to my course work, research, plans or activities.
8. The University is limited in its capabilities to assist in many types of incidents, and will not be financially responsible and may not provide resources to assist.
9. I will register with the [University's UGO Off-Campus Travel Registry](#) before the trip begins.
10. I will follow all guidelines for infection prevention and control as instructed, including social distancing, hand hygiene, and wearing personal protective equipment (eg. gloves, masks) to protect myself against COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. I will follow health authority self-isolation guidelines and remain at my place of residence if I feel ill.