

BOLOGNA CONSORTIAL STUDIES PROGRAM

COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

For additional links and guidance, see: <https://www.bcspbologna.it/covid-19>

This document is subject to change as guidance from Consortium institutions and the Italian national and regional governments evolves. Additionally, consult the [AACUPI COVID-19 Info Sheet – Emilia Romagna](#).

ARRIVING IN BOLOGNA

Anyone arriving from the US will be admitted to Italy upon presenting (when boarding and undergoing the usual arrival controls):

Covid-19 green certification, that can be replaced by the equivalent certification issued by the competent home health agency. As far as the US is concerned, the so-called **“White Card with CDC logo” has been fully reconfirmed as valid certification**; again, this can be either in digital or paper format. As usual, alternative to the above, the passenger can show **certification of full recovery** from Covid, **or, a negative test** taken in the previous 72 hours (molecular) or 48 hours (antigenic).

Travellers **who do not show any Green Pass** or equivalent documentation will **be obliged to respect a 5-day fiduciary isolation**, followed by a tampon Covid-19 test.

Please note that **effective May 1, 2022, the Passenger Locator Form will NO longer be required**.

Book travel arrangements with an airline that allows travel through to Bologna, possibly with a layover within the EU. Follow the guidelines of the airline regarding COVID testing (i.e., before, during, after the flight).

For more information on the preventative measures in place in Italy, read this link from the [Italian Ministry of Health](#).

Upon arrival at the airport, follow your explicit arrival instructions.

BCSP STUDENT COVID BEHAVIOR PROTOCOLS

The European Union continues to work together to combat the spread of the Coronavirus, and establish best practices and protocols throughout all of the member states. For more information, check this link: [EU Response](#)

BCSP students are expected to follow all official protocols and safety recommendations issued by the Italian health and regional authorities. In addition to those guidelines, all BCSP students are obliged to follow the following protocols:

- Make sure to have with you a thermometer so you can check your temperature if needed. If you have a fever (a temperature above 37.5°C) do not go to class or visit the Center. Let the BCSP staff know that you feel ill.

- **As of today, it is confirmed that until June 15, 2022:**

- the use of masks is recommended in all indoor places, either public or open to the public;

- the **use of the FFP2 masks remains mandatory on all public transportation means**, as well as in theatres, cinemas and for all events that take place indoors;

- social distancing (one meter minimum) remains highly recommended at all times;

- Use the sanitizer after you touch surfaces. There will be sanitizer in the BCSP office but you must have your own to use in public, on public transport, in classrooms and in your housing. This can be purchased in pharmacies, convenience and grocery stores.

- Follow housing guidelines that will depend on your type of housing.

- If you feel sick or someone close to you gets sick, please follow the guidelines below for effective COVID response.

UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA STRATEGY FOR COVID PREVENTION:

The University of Bologna has detailed information on its website regarding its COVID mitigation strategies. For updates regarding their information, see:

<https://www.unibo.it/en/university/covid-19-The-measures-adopted-by-the-University-of-Bologna/information-about-the-contagion-and-the-protection-of-our-communitys-health>

Students, teachers and staff of Unibo are required to notify the university if resulting positive to COVID-19 after an antigen or molecular test. Information must be sent by filling out a [form](#) accessible through the university website.

BCSP PROTOCOL FOR EFFECTIVE COVID-19 RESPONSE:

Please follow these protocols if/when you, or someone you know, gets sick or is tested:

1. *Someone close to you gets sick or has to be tested:*

If you received a booster, and your EU Green Pass and CDC white card are valid, you are exempt from quarantine. You must wear a FFP2, or N95, mask for 10 days following your last contact with the person who tested positive with COVID-19. Should you develop symptoms, you must immediately take an antigen or molecular test. If you continue to experience symptoms, an antigen or molecular test must be taken within 5 days from the last contact.

If you did not receive the booster but completed the first vaccination cycle, or are not vaccinated, quarantine measures will be enforced in accordance with the Italian health protocol. More detailed information can be found here:

<https://www.ausl.bologna.it/per-i-cittadini/coronavirus/faq-covid>

The moment you discover that someone close to you may have COVID (that is, has been prescribed a COVID test) you must immediately contact BCSP staff (RD +39 340 802 6036 or SSC +39 338 543 4056)

If the person close to you is negative, you can return to the BCSP office once the BCSP staff have given you permission to do so.

If the person close to you is positive, the COVID+ procedure will begin. See # 3 below.

2. You are not feeling well and the doctor prescribes a COVID test:

If you are not feeling well and you have a fever, you should not come to the BCSP office, and you should self-isolate. Please contact Dr. Stephen Williams (+39 347 816 4535) or the doctor assigned by the Italian Health Service immediately.

If Dr. Williams (or the doctor assigned by the Italian Health Service) prescribes a COVID test, you must immediately self-quarantine and contact the BCSP staff RD (+39 340 802 6036) or SSC (+39 338 543 4056)

If you are negative, with proof from testing center, you may return to the BCSP office.

If you are positive, Dr. Williams (or the doctor assigned by the Italian Health Service) will notify the Bologna AUSL (local health authority) and the COVID+ procedure will begin. See n. 3 below.

3. COVID-19 POSITIVE: You or another member of the BCSP community has COVID (faculty, staff, students, or one of their close contacts)

If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you must immediately inform the BCSP staff RD (+39 340 802 6036) or SSC (+39 338 543 4056).

A negative test is required in order to officially end the period of isolation. Quarantine may be reduced from 10 to 7 days for vaccinated individuals who received the booster and who test positive for COVID-19, but only if they do not experience symptoms during quarantine or no longer have symptoms for at least 3 days. In any case, at the end of this period, they must take an antigen or molecular test and obtain a negative result.

We may ask students to temporarily attend classes virtually. Other details about our behavior will be dictated by the Italian health protocol.

HOUSING GUIDELINES

Housing guidelines will depend on the type of housing that BCSP permitted you to arrange for your time in Italy. In general, you can expect to follow the guidance below provided by regional authorities regarding students in university residences:

- a. Maintain a physical distance of minimum one meter and avoid physical contact.

- b. Clean bathrooms after every use with chlorine-based (bleach) or alcohol (+70%) based products.
- c. Wash hands frequently with soap and water or, when not available, use hand sanitizer.
- d. Do not share household items, and after using them, wash them thoroughly with soap and water.
- e. Do not share linens and towels, and wash them regularly.
- f. Ventilate rooms on a regular basis and leave windows open as much as possible.

VIOLATIONS OF BCSP PROTOCOLS

BCSP has put in place the above guidelines to help provide expectations for how students should protect themselves and others from the spread of COVID. Students should follow all of the guidelines in this document and any additional ones provided by the local staff to ensure the safety for all participants. Violations of these guidelines will result in corrective actions. Serious violations that threaten your health and safety as well as those of others will result in a written behavioral incident report shared with your institution. Ongoing violations may result in expulsion from the program.

COVID-19 Safety Awareness

If you are aware of any BCSP individual who is not adhering to the BCSP or national guidelines, please let us know by emailing Dr. Andrea Ricci (ricci@bcspbologna.it) or call +39 340 802 6036.

TRAVEL GUIDELINES

Students must follow official travel guidelines established by the Italian government, the Italian Health Ministry and the Emilia-Romagna Region. The staff will remind you of these guidelines that are based on the public health conditions in various sections of Italy.

However, if the guidelines change during the course of the program, you can consult conditions and restrictions that the European Union members are putting into practice in this link (or download the ReOpen EU app): [ReOpen EU](#)

DEFINITIONS of terms used in these Guidelines

Confirmed Case (Covid+): A person who has tested positive after a Covid swab (tampon).

Casual Contact: Casual contact is considered a low-risk contact and in the BCSP-Unibo setting. It means that you have been in a classroom or shared space with a COVID+ individual, while following the rules of mask-wearing, hand sanitizing, and keeping a distance of 1.5 m (social distancing). Casual contact does not require quarantine.

According to the Italian Department of Health regulations, you are required to autonomously check your temperature and overall health – and if you are not feeling well, go to your doctor immediately.

Close contact. A close contact with a COVID+ individual is defined as follows:

- Someone living in your house;
- Someone with whom you have had physical contact (as simple as a handshake);
- Making contact with someone's bodily fluids (for example, touching a used tissue);
- Someone with whom you have had direct contact: face to face, without a mask, at a distance under 2 meters and for more than 15 min;
- Someone in a closed room with you (classroom, meeting room, waiting room, bus) without the proper protections (mask and social distancing).
- Someone who has travelled on a train, plane, or other means of transportation, seated within 2 seats, in any direction, of a COVID-19 case. This includes travel companions and transportation staff.

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