

BOLOGNA CONSORTIAL STUDIES PROGRAM

COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

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* (soon available on-line).

ARRIVING IN BOLOGNA

There are currently no restrictions on U.S. travelers to Italy as long as they provide at least one of the following documents upon entry:

- 1) **anti-SARS-CoV-2 vaccination**, including the completion (at least 14 days) of the prescribed cycle of one of the vaccinations recognized by the EMA. Those vaccinated in the U.S.A. can prove this via the ["white card" bearing a CDC logo](#);
- 2) **recovery from COVID-19** (with a medical certificate **outlining any necessary information**);
- 3) **negative rapid antigenic or molecular PCR** test carried out within 48 hours of departure (proved via certification from the laboratory that performed the test).

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, take a taxi by yourself to the Hotel Cavour where Professor Andrea Ricci and Student Services Coordinator Danielle Di Leo will meet you and help you check-in.

BCSP STUDENT COVID BEHAVIOR PROTOCOLS

The European Union is working together on joint initiatives 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.
- Wear a face mask properly when you are in the Center, in a Unibo class or indoors, as determined by local public health guidelines. Cloth masks are more effective when worn over disposable hygienic or surgical masks. If you are experiencing symptoms, you should wear a certified surgical mask. Seek assistance from BCSP staff if you need information about masks.
- Practice physical distancing at all times (which in Europe is 3-4 feet).
- 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.
- Utilize the Unibo app for reserving a space in an in-person class.
- 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>

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 someone close to you (someone in your living space, or with whom you have had close contact) has to be tested for COVID-19, it is necessary that you quarantine voluntarily until they have the results of their test. If they test positive, you will be contacted by the Dipartimento di Sanità Pubblica (DSP) and ordered to enter mandated quarantine.

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 (usamed99@gmail.com) 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)

All of your close contacts (see definition below) must also remain in quarantine until your results have come in.

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 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).

Your doctor will notify the DSP, (this is automatic when anyone receives a COVID+ test), and the contact tracing within the BCSP office will begin. The DSP will shortly issue you an official order to start a mandatory isolation. Until you receive the order from the DSP, you should self-isolate.

We may ask students to temporarily attend classes virtually while we follow the contact tracing of the positive case. Other details about our behavior will be dictated by the Italian health protocol.

All close contacts with the COVID+ individual are required to self-isolate for 10 days.

COVID-19 COMMUNICATION PLAN

Upon a positive COVID-19 confirmation in the BCSP community, we will inform all the BCSP staff, faculty, students, any external guests and BCSP institutions via email that a positive case has been confirmed. However, we will keep all personal details and identifying features anonymous in these communications.

The BCSP staff will begin working with the affected student and start assisting the DSP with contact tracing. BCSP staff will then begin to contact all community members who have been in contact with the individual who has tested positive for COVID-19.

We may ask students to temporarily attend classes virtually while we follow the contact tracing of the positive case. Other details 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 restrictions that are based on the public health conditions in various sections of Italy. Student **should not travel** outside of Italy during the official dates of the program

since you may not be able to reenter. For more information, see the *AACUPI COVID-19 Info Sheet – Emilia Romagna*.

However, if restrictions 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 (tamponne). These individuals will be contacted automatically by the **Public Health Authority (Dipartimento di Sanità Pubblica, or DSP)** and given instructions, usually an order to quarantine.

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).

Mandated isolation (“isolamento fiduciario obbligatorio”): A confirmed case (Covid+) will receive an order from the Public Health Authority (DSP) by certified email with instructions to stay home and self-isolate for a period determined by your doctor. The DSP will check in on the person periodically by telephone (Active Surveillance) to monitor the progression of the disease. In this case, students can work with the BCSP office to receive academic accommodations in the event they cannot participate in class or need flexibility on assignment deadlines.

Mandated quarantine (“*quarantena obbligatoria*”): This is mandated by a doctor or public health authority based on a suspected interaction with, or exposure to, a Covid+ infected person by a healthy person. The healthy person’s movements may be limited for a period of time, depending on the nature of the exposure.

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