

Sent December 22, 2020

Dear student,

Congratulations on making it to the end of a unique Fall semester! I hope you are excited for your fast-approaching Spring semester in Rome.

In this message, we address a number of outstanding issues; please refer to this communication and our previous updates (all posted to the [Ed Abroad website](#)) should you have any questions over the break.

First and foremost, Temple University, including Temple Rome and the Education Abroad office, will be **closed from December 24 - January 4**. Education Abroad staff will periodically check the study.abroad@temple.edu email address for inquiries, but please understand that based on the nature of your request, you may not hear from us until after the break. Urgent inquiries should allow for 48-72 hours for a response.

Please read this update thoroughly and refer to all of the places where we've saved program updates for review: the [Ed Abroad website](#); your **study abroad portal** where you will find the "Temple University Rome Students Covid-19 Guidelines and Regulations", the semester program manual, arrival instructions, pre-flight testing guidance, and information about phones in Italy; as well as the Temple Rome **Canvas** site.

Please refer to the posted materials if you have any questions over the break, as they may provide an answer much faster than we can by email! We know this is a lot of information to digest; thank you for reading through everything carefully.

This update covers:

- [Current situation in Rome \(as of December 22\)](#)
- [Flight Options](#)
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Current Situation in Rome, as of December 22

Rome remains a yellow zone, meaning there is a curfew from 10PM - 5AM; restaurants close at 6PM but continue for take-away; museums, indoor gyms, and theaters are closed; and everyone is required to wear masks in indoor and outdoor spaces. Travel is permitted between yellow zones. For details on current containment measures, visit the [Italian Ministry of Health's website](#).

Over the Christmas holidays, however, the Italian government has determined the need to designate the entire country a **red** zone as a pre-emptive move; this action does not indicate an increase in cases, but rather precautionary measures to discourage travel between regions and reduce any possible spread of the virus. You may hear on the news that Italy is in lockdown, but this refers to this temporary move and we anticipate a return to yellow status immediately following the holidays (after Jan 6, 2021).

Flight Options

We suggest you continue to check on your flight status, and if your flight is cancelled over the break, you have the following options. Whichever option you choose, please be sure to

- 1) thoroughly review all refund and change policies,
- 2) review any testing requirements, and
- 3) email Rosie your new itinerary and update your study abroad portal immediately upon rebooking.

***Important note:** all student visas start January 10th, 2021, so it is OK to arrive in Rome on this date or after, regardless of what you originally wrote on your visa application. **Visas are not valid for arrival any day before January 10.**

- Option 1: “Covid-Free” or “Covid-Tested” flights. As of this writing, there are two non-stop flights to Rome [Fiumicino (FCO) airport] that reduce the quarantine for students who successfully meet all of the testing requirements (more on this below).
 - These flights are **Alitalia 609/Delta 6675** from JFK on January 10th, and **Delta 62** from Atlanta on January 9th.
 - It is the student’s responsibility to investigate and complete the testing requirements for these flights.
- Option 2: There are a number of flights that leave from Newark or JFK with layovers before arriving at Fiumicino. We recommend a flight with a layover in Frankfurt, Munich, or Amsterdam, if you must take a flight with a layover.
 - It is important to remember that any additional time spent in an airport, on a layover, is additional time in crowded spaces that may increase the chances of contracting Covid-19.
 - Students on flights with layovers are required to participate in the full, 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Rome.
- Option 3: If you are unable to book a new flight that arrives on January 10 or 11, and have exhausted all options, please contact Rosie via email (rcarlson@temple.edu) to discuss - bearing in mind that email reply times will be delayed. We will work to find an option and to get you settled in Rome as quickly as possible.

Quarantine

Students traveling to Rome on officially designated “COVID-Tested” or “COVID-Free” flights, who test **negative for COVID-19 at each checkpoint** as required by their airline and the Italian government, have a reduced quarantine upon arrival in Rome. Qualified students quarantine for 7 days, and are allowed out of quarantine on day 8 after a negative rapid antigen test. Please remember that plans are subject to change.

Students not traveling to Rome on officially designated “COVID-Tested” or “COVID-Free” flights are required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival, regardless of any independent tests prior to departure, as mandated by the Italian government. These students are allowed out of quarantine on day 15.

All students quarantine in program-arranged apartments. We are pleased to announce that we have now secured apartments in the Prati neighborhood, the same neighborhood of the regular semester-long housing.

- Instead of individual apartments, students share the apartment with other program participants. Our hope is that this arrangement will ease concerns of isolation.
- Each student will have a single bedroom for the first 14 days of the program, regardless of whether they are participating in the full or reduced quarantine.
- It is important to keep all common areas sanitized, maintain physical distance between apartment-mates, and to wear masks when you are in your shared living spaces with your apartment-mates.
- Your quarantine housing assignment, and apartment-mates, are not the same as your semester-long housing assignment or apartment-mates. While Temple Rome staff is doing its best to place students with their roommate requests for the length of the semester, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate all requests. We thank you for understanding that again, these housing plans are subject to change as flights change.
- After the quarantine period, students will move to their semester-long apartment assignment, which may be in a different building.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 at any point after arrival in Rome are required to isolate in separate accommodations. More information about what happens should you, or someone who has been identified as a “close contact” of yours, test positive for COVID-19 can be found in the “Covid-19 Guidelines and Regulations” on your study abroad portal.

Student Conduct & Italian Law

In your study abroad portal, you can find the “COVID-19 Guidelines and Regulations” for Temple Rome students.

It is of the utmost importance to remember that violating the guidelines that Temple Rome has developed for quarantine, protecting student health, and personal travel, is a violation of the [Temple University Code of Conduct](#). Just as on Main Campus, if a student does not adhere to the public health guidelines, they will be subject to review by Temple’s conduct office.

Furthermore, students are reminded that many guidelines determined by Temple Rome, such as the 14-day quarantine period for students on non-COVID-tested flights, are also Italian laws.

- Violating Italian law (public health-based or otherwise) while in Italy is a serious matter. In addition to any consequences incurred with the Italian public authorities, violating

Italian law is also a violation of the Code of Conduct and will result in student conduct procedures.

Breaking quarantine, not wearing a mask in public spaces, violating curfew, traveling outside of Italy during the program - among any other violations of Temple Rome's guidelines - result in severe consequences for the student(s) involved.

Remember, these regulations are not only for your safety, but for the safety of others. We are committed to having a full and healthy semester at TU Rome and it is everyone's responsibility to maintain and respect these protocols.

Pre-Departure Considerations, Quarantine/Isolation and Health Monitoring

First and foremost, your health should be your biggest consideration before you fly to Rome. It is important to remain vigilant about your personal health prior to departure as well as once you arrive.

As cases rise here in the U.S., and you consider plans for the holiday season, it is best to carefully follow [public health guidelines](#) and limit possible exposure to COVID-19 at all times but especially in the two weeks leading up to your departure for Italy.

We recommend self-quarantining/isolating and/or avoiding any domestic travel for at least two weeks prior to your flight to Rome. As we saw over the Thanksgiving holiday, and as public health experts have been warning, the risk of contracting the virus is very high during holiday periods when we are more inclined to gather with groups of friends and family. We recommend against any gatherings or actions that could put your health, and participation in the Rome program, at risk.

Students who are not feeling well or experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms should not get on an airplane. The CDC says not to travel if you or any of your travel companions:

- Are sick
- Have suspected or diagnosed COVID-19 (even if you don't have symptoms)
- Have been around someone with suspected or diagnosed COVID-19 in the past 14 days (even if *they* did not have symptoms).

Please contact Ed Abroad immediately if any of the situations above apply to you leading up to your departure. See [CDC's full guidelines](#) for when to delay travel.

Rest assured that we will do everything we can to accommodate students at Temple Rome who are unable to travel on the official departure dates for these health reasons.

Pre-Departure Considerations, Testing

Regardless of your flight's testing policy, you should consider getting tested for COVID-19 prior to departure.

Remember, tests are just a snapshot in time, and you might consider getting tested multiple times within the weeks before you travel, to have the best idea of your infection status. Rapid antigen tests and PCR tests are available at a variety of locations, and many insurance agencies are covering testing. Please review our testing guidance for links to various testing sites that may be open to you.

Students on “Covid-Tested” and “Covid-Free” flights are required to meet their specific airline’s testing requirements. It is your responsibility to make sure you are acquiring the correct test(s), in the correct time frame. As we have seen time and again, flight statuses and testing availability change without notice. It is important to plan ahead and create backup plans. Please refer to our [testing guidance here](#), for information about testing sites that may be open to you.

Financial and Academic Updates

The cost of housing, including the quarantine and meal plan, is now \$4,825. This cost includes all Covid-19 testing administered by Temple Rome throughout the semester and program-arranged meals during the mandated quarantine period. Please note that this cost does not change if you anticipate having a reduced quarantine.

Students should note that when their registration changes to Rome-based classes in January, any applicable [course fees](#) will be added to student bills. All fees are listed for each course on Banner and on our Spring 2021 cost sheet, in their respective courses.

Students can review their planned schedule for Rome in Banner. Students have an opportunity to change their courses during the drop/add period at the start of the semester.

Required Pre-departure Modules in Canvas

Students should accept the invitation to join the “Orientation - Spring 2021” Canvas course created by Temple Rome. In these modules, you review Temple Rome’s academic policies, COVID-19 policies and procedures, tour Temple Rome’s neighborhood, and learn more about Italian culture and life in Rome.

Please complete these modules and associated quizzes *before* you depart for Rome. These quizzes do not impact your semester grades, but it is important that you understand the material provided.

You have also been added to a Health and Safety course through Canvas to remind you of the safety protocols you must adhere to during your international semester.

Please **complete these canvas courses by January 8th, 2021**, and reach out if you have questions or concerns accessing or completing these modules.

You may review the recorded pre-departure sessions through these links: [Travel and Arrivals](#) (hosted Dec. 17), [Daily Life in Rome](#) (hosted Nov. 23), [Parent and Family Q&A](#) (hosted Nov. 30).

Required Flight Documents and Arrival Instructions

Refer to this document for [arrival instructions](#), this has also been posted to your study abroad portal.

It is critically important that you print, complete, and sign the documents outlined in the arrival instructions.

These documents may ask for your quarantine housing address, as is required by the Italian authorities upon your arrival in Rome. **Your quarantine housing address will be emailed to you the week of January 4, 2021, prior to your departure.** Since you may not use your cellphone in the arrivals terminal of Fiumicino airport, it is critical that you print the arrival instructions, write your quarantine address on your instructions, and carry a copy with you (along with your passport) on the flight.

Program Manager in Rome

Rosie Carlson, the Temple Rome Program Manager, will travel to Rome to work with the students and Temple Rome staff during the first three weeks of the Spring semester. Her experience navigating the testing protocols and arrivals procedures just before the students' departure will help shed light on any changes to our arrivals instructions or testing guidance. Upon what we plan to be a successful arrival in Rome, Rosie will update students and families with any new information gleaned from her experience.

In her role as Program Manager, Rosie will be available to assist with student needs as they adjust to studying abroad, liaising with the Student Life Team at Temple University Rome. Rosie will work at the Temple University Rome campus, with the administration there, until the end of January.

Wishing you and your families happy holidays and a relaxing break.

Education Abroad and Overseas Campuses