April 21, 2021 Update

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The Temple Rome staff and faculty are eager to greet our summer I cohort in just a few weeks, and we are busy making plans for your arrival. As you make final preparations for departure, we write with essential updates and to address any questions you may have about how COVID-19 developments may affect travel plans and the study abroad experience.

Below please review important information about the impact of COVID-19 in Italy and Rome, Italian rules and regulations, and Temple Rome policies. While Temple Rome has thorough protocols and plans in place to promote the health and well-being of the entire Temple Rome community and the local community in which we are hosted, the success of the program relies, too, on each student understanding their responsibility as a traveler and visitor to Italy.

The trajectory or impact of COVID-19 we experience in our home countries or regions may not be the same, or even similar, elsewhere. As we have seen throughout the pandemic, the prevalence of COVID-19 and government responses to it vary significantly from location to location, as do access to and administration of vaccines.

Although learning firsthand how host countries addresses current-day challenges has always been an integral part of study abroad, it is undoubtedly a unique time to live in another country, as the ways that a host country responds to COVID-19 - from laws related to immigration and travel to regulations affecting daily life - will have a direct impact on students’ experiences.

If you have any questions about what is required to successfully study abroad during the pandemic, we are here to help.

Current Situation in Italy
The Centers for Disease Control continues to advise U.S. travelers that the risk of COVID-19 in Italy, like much of the world, is very high. This week, the U.S. Department of State adjusted its
own advisory levels to align with the CDC; as such, Italy is rated a Level 4. While this new rating does not signify a change in conditions on the ground, Temple Rome administration, Temple University Main Campus leadership, Risk Management, and Education Abroad continually monitor and assess government advisories and advice from our emergency services provider, International SOS, and consult with local Italian authorities and health experts to ensure we can fully support students on site. Temple Rome has experience in supporting students during the pandemic, with more than 65 students studying abroad on the program this spring.

COVID-19 cases in Italy have been steadily decreasing since late March, and vaccines are rolling out, although vaccination rates are lower in Italy than the U.S. After a period in the red zone, the Lazio region, which includes Rome, moved to the orange zone in early April. In-person classes, including on-site visits throughout Rome, and in-person program activities resumed. Refer to the relevant links provided in our February message for up-to-date information on COVID-19 data and zones in Italy and visit Temple Rome’s Facebook and Instagram sites to learn more about the spring semester student experience. Effective April 26, 2021, most of the country, including Rome, will move to a yellow zone.

Yellow zone designation means:

- You can freely walk in and explore the city and travel to other yellow zones in Italy.
- A curfew remains from 10 pm to 5 am except for health, work, study or urgent matters.
- Bars and restaurants with outdoor seating are open for lunch and dinner. After June 1st, indoor dining will be allowed until 6 pm. Bars and restaurants are open for take-away until 10 pm. There are no restrictions on home delivery.
- All stores, including shopping centers, are allowed to operate with regular hours.
- Museums, Movies Theaters and theaters are open at 50% occupancy.
- Places of worship and public spaces are open.

Zones will continue to be reviewed on a weekly basis, so it is possible that there will be fluctuations over the course of the program. Temple Rome will ensure students are updated with any relevant changes and remains prepared to adjust the program as necessary.

**Vaccination Status and Prior COVID-19 Diagnoses**

We strongly recommend all students be vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to traveling if they are able to be vaccinated. Program participants should not expect to get vaccinated against COVID-19 while studying abroad in Italy. Students who are planning to get a vaccination requiring two doses should ensure that they are able to receive the second dose prior to departure.
While being vaccinated significantly reduces the risk of contracting the virus, proof of COVID-19 vaccination and/or a prior COVID-19 diagnosis does not currently exempt individuals from any airline, government, or Temple Rome program COVID-19 testing, quarantine, or travel requirements. All students, regardless of vaccination status or prior COVID-19 diagnosis, must adhere to the same COVID-19 policies and protocols set by the Italian government and Temple Rome. For example, in Italy, vaccinated individuals must:

- follow protocols for wearing masks even in the presence of other vaccinated individuals.
- quarantine if they are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

While students should expect these rules to remain in place throughout the program, governments, businesses and organizations are still determining if or how vaccination and/or prior diagnosis status may affect their rules, restrictions, and regulations. For this reason, we recommend that vaccinated individuals travel with their vaccination card in the event you need to provide proof of your vaccination status while abroad. We will also ask students soon to share their vaccination status with us so that Temple Rome can respond to any potential changes in government regulations and appropriately advise students during their stay in Italy.

**Student Conduct, Pledge and Sanctions**

The Temple Rome community is small, and everyone’s participation in following Italian laws and regulations as well as Temple Rome rules and protocols is critical to the health and safety of all, as well as our ability to host a successful program. Therefore, we want to emphasize how important it is for all students on the program to follow the instructions and rules prior to departure and while in Italy. All study abroad students will be required to sign a pledge with Temple Rome committing to follow several rules.

Following local laws and regulations, in addition to Temple Rome rules and protocols, is required under Temple’s Student Conduct Code.

**Noncompliance with Italian or Temple Rome quarantine requirements is a violation of Temple Rome policy** and will result in disciplinary sanctions. Students are required to follow all Temple Rome protocols during the arrival quarantine and any subsequent quarantine/isolation periods, if applicable. Violation of Italian-mandated quarantine is a felony and may result in fines of up to several thousand Euros.

**Travel outside of Italy during the program is strictly prohibited by Temple Rome.** This rule applies to all students regardless of citizenship, prior COVID-19 diagnosis and/or COVID-19
vaccination status. Travel outside of Italy is a violation of Temple Rome policy and will result in disciplinary sanctions.

Students found responsible for violations could face serious sanctions, including dismissal from the program. **Students dismissed from the program are responsible for the costs of their departure and will not receive any refunds for the costs of the program.** Temple Rome collaborates with Temple’s Main Campus office of Student Conduct and Community Standards on student conduct matters and processes. Non-Temple home institutions will be notified of any conduct matters involving their student participants.

**Travel, Arrival, Quarantine and COVID-19 Testing Reminders and Updates**

- **All** Temple Rome summer program participants are required to arrive in Rome on an officially designated “COVID-tested” flight.
- **Only certain flights are designated “COVID-tested”**. These flights are non-stop from the U.S. to Rome, approved by the Italian government, and require specific testing protocols. Passengers on COVID-tested flights who test negative for COVID-19 at each predetermined checkpoint do not need to adhere to the full 14-day quarantine required by the Italian government when they arrive in Rome.
- Temple Rome requires all students, regardless of vaccination status or previous COVID-19 diagnosis, to quarantine within their apartments upon arrival for 5 days, even when arriving on a COVID-tested flight and testing negative at the airport upon arrival in Italy. Students will be tested on day 5 and will be released from quarantine on day 6 provided they have received a negative test result and have followed all quarantine protocols.
- Temple Rome will offer online orientation sessions, activities and student support, and classes will begin during quarantine. In-person activities will begin immediately following the 5-day quarantine period. Staff will support any student in the event that they test positive for COVID-19 upon arrival in Italy or after the 5-day quarantine period.
- It is important to remain vigilant about personal health prior to departure and throughout the program. It is best to carefully follow public health guidelines and limit possible exposure to COVID-19 at all times leading up to departure for Italy.
- Note that some people who have had COVID-19 continue to test positive for a long time.
- U.S. passport holders cannot enter Italy as tourists, so in order to board a flight to Rome, students will need to demonstrate student status by providing acceptance letters to the program, which will include the program dates. We cannot anticipate how airlines or immigration officials may choose to interpret your status if your return ticket shows that you plan to be in Italy beyond the program dates as a tourist. To avoid any potential
complications with boarding flights or entering Italy, it is imperative that students purchase a return ticket for **June 25** and only make plans to stay longer as a tourist once in Rome and can make the informed decision to do so.

- More information about pre-departure COVID-19 testing will be provided to students soon.
- **In-country COVID-19 testing:**
  - The required COVID-19 testing at the airport in Rome upon arrival now costs 20 Euro, payable by credit card.
  - All program participants, regardless of vaccination status or any COVID-19 diagnoses prior to arrival in Italy are required to participate in routine, asymptomatic COVID-19 testing throughout the program.
  - Temple Rome will coordinate COVID-19 antigen testing for students departing Italy on the official program end date if required for students’ return flight to their home country.

Please read [Temple Rome’s Summer 2021 COVID-19 Guidelines and Regulations](#) which explain procedures and requirements for positive COVID-19 cases and close contacts. As also explained in the housing information, students who are determined to be close contacts of a COVID-19-positive individual must quarantine, regardless of vaccination status or prior COVID-19 diagnosis. Students are automatically considered close contacts if they share an apartment with a confirmed positive case. Students should expect these program guidelines and regulations to be in effect for the duration of the program.

**Housing Reminders and Updates**

All students will be placed in single bedrooms within shared apartments for the duration of the program. We will be using students’ housing questionnaires to help determine placements as explained in the housing information, posted to each student’s program homepage.

The confirmed housing cost for the Temple Rome Summer I session is $2160. This has been updated on the [summer cost sheet](#).

In yellow zones, a maximum of two guests per apartment at any given time will be permitted. If Rome is designated a red zone or orange, no guests will be allowed in apartments. Overnight guests are prohibited at all times, regardless of zone color.

**Pre-departure Orientation Programming and Arrival Information**

Thank you to all students who participated in our pre-departure programming so far, and we look forward to upcoming events. The full schedule is available in students’ online study abroad
portals. Detailed arrival instructions and the on-site orientation schedule will be shared with program participants soon.