CSU is continuing to monitor and respond to the evolving situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, CSU is limiting all non-essential international travel. This is a difficult decision but an important one, as it reduces the risk of exposure within all communities.

Essential travel is defined as travel that:

- Preserves the safety of a research subject and cannot be postponed; or
- Preserves the results of a research activity and cannot be postponed; or
- Is for academic credit that is necessary to meet a graduation requirement and cannot be postponed.

Students who believe their travel is essential must complete the steps below.

1. Submit a [COVID-19 travel petition](#). This document will help you learn of the ongoing challenges and risks of travel and identify ways to mitigate and respond to those challenges.
2. Request an exception to the CSU restriction on non-essential travel, as authorized via email communication with your Department Head/Chair and Dean/VP.
3. Review CSU’s list of [higher risk destinations](#). These countries presented elevated risk pre-pandemic and require an additional travel petition.
4. Students with CSU employment are required to inform their CSU supervisor of their international travel plans and ask if they have any specific post-travel safety requirements before you return to campus.

We are grateful to see the world slowly reopen to travel and permit a return to your important international engagements. However, each country has navigated the pandemic with varying degrees of success, and some destinations remain particularly burdened or with limited access to vaccines. Given the ongoing fluidity, it is advisable to explore deferring any international travel to the latest possible date and/or assess if going abroad in the current global climate is feasible and/or aligns with your personal risk tolerance.

If you need assistance is navigating next steps, contact [derek.smallwood@colostate.edu](mailto:derek.smallwood@colostate.edu). In the meantime, here are some additional considerations:

- Review this CSU [higher risk travel](#) information
- If you are planning to travel for research purposes also see helpful information from the [OVPR](#).
- The [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) and [Department of State](https://travel.state.gov) rank most international destinations as higher risk. Many countries have imposed [travel restrictions](https://travel.state.gov) and border closures.
- Even if your itinerary meets the conditions for approval please consider the assessments above and if this is the best time for you to go abroad. In addition to consulting with your departmental supervisors, it is advisable to confer with other stakeholders relevant to your travel (e.g. your host university or partners, funding organization, etc.).
- Note that if you need to apply for a U.S [passport](https://travel.state.gov) or visa for your host country, that could also cause significant delays, as many services are limited at this time.

Your well-being is important to CSU. While we want you to have an international experience, now may not be that time, and we need to remain flexible in this evolving situation.

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