

COVID19 and GO Programs FAQ

How is Susquehanna monitoring the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation worldwide?

A team of university officials, including members of the GO office, is meeting regularly to discuss the outbreak of the respiratory illness COVID-19. To assess risks related to study abroad travel, the university uses a number of resources, including governmental agencies, news reports, reports from international security provider, professional health and security organizations, and more.

How does Susquehanna make decisions about its study abroad programs?

As part of normal protocol, we continuously review information from the U.S. State Department, CDC, Risk Management and Security Advisors, news accounts, and our local partners in all countries where our students travel. GO staff receives real-time updates regarding health and safety within the countries where we send students. We also are in at least weekly contact with our in-country partners.

What changes has Susquehanna made to GO programs due to COVID-19?

As of March 2, 2020, SU has suspended all university-related student travel to China, South Korea, and Italy until further notice, as have most US higher education institutions. These three countries are listed at a Travel Advisory Level 3 or 4 from both the State Department and CDC due to COVID-19.

Many of the countries that we have students participating in GO programs are at an advisory Level 1 or 2 from both the State Department and CDC. As of March 1, 2020, the [CDC does not recommend canceling](#) or postponing travel to destinations with Level 1 travel notices because the risk of COVID-19 is thought to be low. If students travel, they should take the following routine precautions, as outlined by the CDC:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially if visibly dirty, or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%–95% alcohol.
- It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

What would happen if a GO program was suspended?

For current [GO Long](#):

We work closely with our academic partners who provide study abroad programs with the goal of mitigating potential impacts on students' academic progress. For information on a specific program, email the GO Office at goprogram@susqu.edu.

For upcoming [GO Short](#) programs:

In the event that we have to cancel a program we will provide alternate options – which could vary depending on the situation. If we cancel a program and cannot find alternative travel options for the summer, we will work with you for the appropriate refunds. We hope this will not be necessary, but we want you to know that we are prepared for these possibilities. We are committed to working with students to complete this graduation requirement.

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For upcoming GO Your Way programs:

“GO Your Way” programs are options during winter and summer break in which students attend programs not directly managed or administered by the GO office. We facilitate students’ choices and help them with credit transfer, etc. much like GO Long. As with GO Long, if a program is cancelled we work with our students to help find alternatives. Also, like GO Long, we follow U.S. State Department advisories and would not approve travel on a program in a region with a Level 3 or 4 advisory.

If a student chooses to leave a GO Long program that has not been suspended, could academic credit be affected?

SU understands that personal tolerance for risk may vary, and that final decisions will be made between a student and their family. If students choose to leave a program and return home, we respect that decision. Students should contact the GO Office for coordination assistance as soon as a decision has been made, and we would recommend they notify their academic adviser of their choice as well. We will work with our partners to try to support the student’s completion of their work with that program, but awarding of academic credit will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and is not guaranteed.

Does Susquehanna have any recommendations for students traveling independently while on a GO Long program?

We strongly recommend that everyone reconsider even personal travel to any country with an advisory Level 3 or 4. Students should register their travel with the State Department which would enroll them in updates to the advisory levels in addition to visiting the State Department and CDC websites. Students who are traveling should, in addition to taking recommended measures to prevent illness, take basic precautions to prepare for potential travel disruptions:

- Students should register independent travel with their program staff and the GO website.
- Students should keep cell phones fully charged and operational, and check their email at least daily.
- Students should travel with important documents, including their passport and insurance documents.
- Students should travel with a full supply of any regular medications, regardless of how long they plan to be away. Prescription medications should be packaged in their original containers.

Who will GO contact with updates?

The GO office will directly contact students with updates. This includes students who are currently abroad this spring 2020; students who are committed to a GO Short or GO Your Way summer 2020 program; and students who are committed to a GO Long fall 2020 program.

Who can I contact about GO and the coronavirus situation?

Please contact the GO office at goprogram@susqu.edu with questions.