

Dear Arts of Italy students,

With Coronavirus in the news so much we understand that you may have some questions regarding your summer GO Short program travel to Italy. We are here to support you.

We are working closely with our on-site partners as well as the program directors to start to identify alterations to activities or program locations based on the current situation. These conversations will continue as the situation progresses.

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 weekly contact with our in-country partners; for our Italy partners, we currently are in daily communication.

As of Feb. 27, 2020, there are no restrictions on international travel due to COVID-19 outside of mainland China and South Korea. There have been some very localized travel restrictions within northern Italy, while most of the country is not currently significantly impacted. If circumstances change in any of the regions where you are scheduled to travel, we remain committed to making adjustments. And, of course, if there were widespread illness resulting in a change in the State Department and CDC travel advice that calls for limiting travel to a specific country, we will follow that advice. 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.

As we mentioned in our letter last week (included below), Susquehanna remains committed to fostering cross-cultural understanding. We will provide updates if there are any changes to travel restrictions.

We have sent this to students, but please continue to keep your parents, families, and support networks updated on this situation as well. If you have questions or concerns about your GO program, please contact us.

Best,

Scott Manning, Dean of Global Programs

Molly Roe, Director of GO

Shane Sanders, Short-term Programs Coordinator