Change to requirement for COVID-19 risk assessment for overseas travel – effective 1st September 2022

Since the start of the pandemic, any traveller going overseas for University business or study has been required to complete a COVID-19 risk assessment for their trip. For some countries, many of the restrictions in place for overseas travel due to COVID-19 have been relaxed. COVID-19 is still very much prevalent in the world however, therefore the risk from COVID-19 still needs to be taken into consideration, to ensure the wellbeing of staff and students.

The University has updated its travel process to include a central COVID-19 risk assessment for overseas travel (separate version for students and for staff). This can be found on the relevant overseas travel webpages. The traveller will be expected to refer to this risk assessment when planning their trip and will be required to check the COVID-19 restrictions of the country they are visiting. The general control measures in this risk assessment will be relevant for the majority of overseas trips, therefore there will no longer be a requirement for a separate COVID-19 risk assessment for every trip.

Where there is an additional COVID-19 risk identified which is over and above that detailed in the central COVID-19 risk assessment (for example if the type of activity increases the risk of transmission, or if the Drum Cussac medical category risk rating is > 3 due to COVID-19) then this is classed as high risk travel. The traveller will need to address this in the relevant staff overseas travel risk assessment form or student overseas travel risk assessment form, in line with pre-pandemic overseas travel processes. There is no need to duplicate the information already contained in the central COVID-19 travel risk assessment. Only additional COVID-19 risks need to be considered on the overseas travel risk assessment.

Further Guidance:

- Government Foreign Travel Advice

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1 For staff: Central COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Overseas Travel (Staff)  
For students: Central COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Overseas Travel (Student)

2 Drum Cussac Risk Monitor for travellers
Government guidance on travel abroad from England during COVID-19

If you would like support with COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Travel Overseas please contact Workplace Health, Safety and Wellbeing on safety@essex.ac.uk or by calling 01206 87 2944.