

# Health and Safety Bulletin

**To:** Heads of Department/Section, Executive Deans, HSLOs and DHSOs, Faculty Managers.

## Change to requirement for COVID-19 risk assessment for overseas travel – effective 1<sup>st</sup> 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).<sup>1</sup> 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<sup>2</sup> 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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<sup>1</sup> For staff: [Central COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Overseas Travel \(Staff\)](#)  
For students: [Central COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Overseas Travel \(Student\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [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](mailto:safety@essex.ac.uk) or by calling 01206 87 2944.

**30<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**For Action**