



# Health, Safety & Security Resources

## ***Considerations***

There is no need to provide answers to these questions. These questions are to help you begin thinking about important issues while conducting your due diligence. If you need assistance or have questions, feel free to contact the Global Education Office at [VTGlobalSafety@vt.edu](mailto:VTGlobalSafety@vt.edu).

- Have participants verified/updated their emergency contact information in Hokie Spa?
- Are participant's passports valid 6 months after their projected return date? This is an absolute requirement as there have been students not allowed on the aircraft due to not meeting this standard.
- Do any participants require a visa, especially international student participants?
- Where is the nearest clinic or hospital?
- What is the standard of medical care in your destination?
- Are there any contagious diseases you need to be concerned about?
- How will participants refill any medications they may need?
- Are there concerns of food- and water-borne illnesses?
- Are there any safety concerns for local transportation? Faculty leaders must provide the name and contact information of vetted transportation options (taxi, bus, etc.) for participants.
- What is the level of security of the facilities participants will normally use?
- During free time, are there any travel restrictions to certain countries or venues?
- Do participants know what is expected of them, and what actions will be taken in case of persistent unacceptable conduct (limits, consequences, etc.)?
- How are participants reminded about the importance of Title IX and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) prevention and reporting?

## ***Important Program Plans***

In the course of preparing your group members for this program, establishing the following plans and communicating them to your group members prior to departure and again upon arrival will be important to the smooth execution of your program. If you need help developing any of these, feel free to contact the Global Education Office at [VTGlobalSafety@vt.edu](mailto:VTGlobalSafety@vt.edu).

**COMMUNICATIONS PLAN** - What is the communication plan for all group members during individual free time and in the case of an emergency or international incident (i.e. natural disaster, terrorism, accident, etc.)?

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT PLAN** - What is the plan to respond to situations preventing a group member from continuing on the program's planned itinerary with the rest of the group (e.g., hospitalization, lost passport). Before you call for assistance, ensure you write the specifics of the incident down and keep it updated.

**MEDICAL/SECURITY ASSISTANCE PLAN** - Do group members know what CISI medical and security insurance covers, how to utilize it, and are they aware of the high-risk activities that are not covered?

## ***Virginia Tech Emergency Contacts***

Download and print the [VT Emergency and Important Contacts list](#). Ensure this list of contacts is readily available to you while abroad, and ensure the top three emergency contacts are programmed into your cell phone for easy access.

## ***Medical Consultations & Vaccination Services***

Early in the planning stage, travelers need to ensure they are aware of the vaccine requirements for their countries of travel. Be aware some vaccines may not be readily available or the supply could be very limited, SO DO NOT DELAY IN OBTAINING THEM. For example, if a student needs a yellow fever vaccine, they will want to begin early to obtain it, as there can be a nationwide shortage.

- Students can obtain their required immunizations at the Schiffert Health Center's Travel Clinic for a cost. Go to [www.healthcenter.vt.edu/ourservices/travel\\_clinic.html](http://www.healthcenter.vt.edu/ourservices/travel_clinic.html) for more information.
- The Montgomery Health Department at 210 South Pepper Street-Suite 1, Christiansburg, VA will usually carry most vaccines, however their Travel Clinic is only open every Tuesday from 8-12 am, by appointment only. Contact them to get a current schedule as it can change. It is an all-inclusive clinic (there is a clinician on-site and they offer vaccines, prescriptions for malaria, etc.). Hedy Ruohoniemi can be contacted at 540-585-3345. It is recommended the traveler speak with their insurance prior to the appointment to find out if the vaccine(s) will be covered. Insurance will be filed, but traveler must pay any amount over. The vaccine should be administered at least 2 weeks prior to departure, and longer for some vaccines. Many pharmacies offer vaccines and the pharmacist may administer them. They will also file for insurance. Travelers are also encouraged to visit with their physician, inform them of your travel abroad, and let them determine if any medications or vaccines need to be prescribed. Visit: <https://www.montgomerycountyva.gov/content/15989/16045/default.aspx> to learn more.
- All Virginia Tech faculty, staff, and students who perform research or related work in remote areas, including in other countries, where such work could potentially expose persons directly to a disease vector or for which travel vaccinations are recommended or required for travel to that country, can obtain vaccinations and other services including travel consultations through Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). EHS must be contacted at least two months in advance of such travel to arrange services. Go [https://www.ehss.vt.edu/med\\_survey/index.php](https://www.ehss.vt.edu/med_survey/index.php) and complete the "Medical Survey Questionnaire" and follow the directions provided. Call 540-231- 3998 or 3600 and ask for the Environmental Health Group.

## ***Additional Helpful Resources***

You are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to learn more about your destination(s) by using reviewing the [Global Travel Quick Reference Guide](#).

## ***U.S. Department of State Travel (USDOS) Travel Advisories***

Use the USDOS website (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>) below to learn about the Travel Advisories for your destination(s). If any of your destination(s), to include excursions, has an elevated Travel Advisory of 4 or 3, or a Level 1 or 2 with a Level 4 or 3 location within your destination country, you are not allowed to lead students to this country without the review and approval of the Global Travel Oversight Committee (GTOC). Identify the travel advisory and why it exists in make plans according to the information available.

## ***Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)***

Use the CDC websites below to learn about vaccine requirements and health issues for your destination(s). If there is a Travel Notice (Warning, Alert or Watch), identify why it exists and identify precautionary measures you plan to use to mitigate the risk. Virginia Tech students and employees are not allowed to travel to countries with a CDC Warning Level 3. Ensure you are aware of vaccine requirements and the timeliness of taking them well before departure in order for them to be effective. The CDC also has mobile apps you can download to use while abroad.

- <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/Travel>
- <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/apps-about>

## ***Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) & Worldcue***

Use the CISI website below to learn about the Worldcue security ratings (and other practical information) for your destination(s). Login using the following instructions: click "Login to My CISI"; login as a "Sponsor" (not "Insured") with USERNAME: VTOTHER, PASSWORD: VTBESAFE; click "Log In", click "Personal Security Assistance" at lower left; click "View" on policy # "18 GLM.....", input your destination(s) and click "Security Info" towards top middle right under picture of satellite dishes. There's also very good practical and medical advice at this [website](#).

## ***Intelligence & Cyber Security Threats During International Travel***

You are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to review the information below to learn how to protect yourself while traveling abroad. Once at the webpage, click on "Intelligence and Cyber Security Threats".

- <https://oesrc.researchcompliance.vt.edu/international-travel>