



**Policy Title:**

International Travel Health Policy

**Policy Identifier:**

A3.09b

<b>Prepared by:</b> PA Program Faculty	Creation Date: 01/01/2026
<b>Reviewed by:</b> PA Program Executive Committee	Review Date: 01/01/2026
<b>Approved by:</b> PA Program Executive Committee	Effective Date: 01/01/2026
<b>Category:</b> Health and Safety Policies	

**ARC-PA Standards**

A3.09b

**Scope**

This policy applies uniformly to all PA students participating in international curricular components and is enforced consistently across all program-sponsored travel experiences.

**Policy Statement**

The USC SOMC Physician Assistant Program publishes and makes readily available to all current and prospective students its International Travel Health Policy through the official program website.

In compliance with ARC-PA Standard A3.09b, [USC Policy ACAF 2.09 \(International Travel\)](#), and current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, the PA Program consistently applies requirements governing student participation in international curricular experiences.

These requirements are also based on applicable federal, state, and host country public health mandates, ensuring that all students meet health, safety, and risk management standards prior to and during international travel.

No student will be permitted to participate in international curricular components without meeting all published health, safety, and documentation requirements.

**Reason for Policy**

To ensure compliance with ARC-PA Standard A3.09b and alignment with USC institutional travel policies (ACAF 2.09) by defining clear and consistent procedures that ensure timely access and adherence to CDC recommendations for international travel. This policy promotes student health, patient safety, and institutional compliance with federal, state, and university health and travel

standards.

## Definitions

- **Elective International Curricular Components:** Optional educational experiences conducted outside the United States, including clinical rotations, service-learning activities, or research placements.
- **Travel Health Consultation:** A pre-travel evaluation with a licensed provider specializing in travel medicine, addressing immunizations, prophylaxis, and personal health preparation.
- **Travel Health Insurance:** Comprehensive coverage including medical care, evacuation, and repatriation for the duration of international travel.
- **Destination-Specific Immunizations:** Vaccines recommended by the CDC for particular travel regions (e.g., Yellow Fever, Typhoid, Hepatitis A).

## Procedures

### 1. Pre-Travel Health Requirements

- All requirements must align with
  - Current CDC Travelers' Health guidelines
  - U. S. Department of State and USC travel restrictions
  - Host country vaccination, testing, and entry requirements
- Students participating in international curricular components must complete a travel health consultation at least six (6) weeks prior to departure.
- The consultation must include:
  - Review and update of all routine and required immunizations per CDC guidelines.
  - Administration of destination-specific vaccines (e.g., Yellow Fever, Hepatitis A).
  - Prescription of prophylactic medications (e.g., antimalarials) as appropriate.
  - Guidance on management of chronic conditions and medication needs while abroad.
- The travel consultation must be conducted by an independent healthcare provider, not by PA Program faculty.
- All consultation costs, vaccines, and prophylaxis expenses are the responsibility of the student.
- Students must submit proof of required immunizations and the travel consultation summary to the Program's travel coordinator prior to travel approval.

### 2. Insurance Requirements

Prior to travel, students must provide documentation of:

- USC international evacuation and repatriation insurance (CISI coverage).
- Professional malpractice insurance (Gallagher).

Students are strongly encouraged to obtain supplemental insurance for:

- International medical treatment costs.
- Communicable disease coverage.

### 3. Health and Safety During Travel

- Students must comply with

- CDC travel advisories
- USC institutional travel policies and restrictions (ACAF 2.09)
- U.S. State Department travel advisories
- Host country laws and public health regulations, including vaccination, quarantine, and infection control requirements
- The institution’s travel coordinator will provide participants with a list of reliable healthcare facilities and emergency contacts for the destination country.
- In the event of illness, injury, or infectious exposure, students must immediately notify:
  - Their on-site supervisor or preceptor,
  - The institution’s travel coordinator, and
  - The PA Program Clinical Director.

**4. Post-Travel Requirements**

- Upon return, students must complete a self-assessment of health and report any symptoms of illness to a healthcare provider.
- Post-travel medical evaluations may be required based on CDC guidelines or exposure risks encountered during travel.
- Any health-related incidents during travel must be reported to the PA Program for documentation and follow-up review.

**5. Compliance Monitoring**

- The PA Program applied these requirements consistently to all students. The institution’s travel coordinator and PA Program Clinical Director are responsible for verifying documentation of travel health consultations, immunizations, and insurance coverage.
- Students who fail to comply with these requirements will not be approved for international travel or participation in elective clinical components abroad.

**Enforcement and Accountability**

Failure to comply with this policy or falsification of required health documentation will result in disciplinary action consistent with PA Program professionalism and conduct policies. Students found noncompliant will be withdrawn from the international experience and may face academic sanctions.

**Contacts**

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**History**

Date of Change	Change
01/01/2026	Policy drafted into new template