

Changes to Hosting Realities (COVID-19 Edition)

ECU (March 31st, 2021)

INFORMATION	QUESTIONS	PARTNER ANSWERS
<p>ARRIVAL INFORMATION</p> <p><i>Please provide information on current requirements for entering the country beyond those related to visa procedures.</i></p>	<p>Will participants need to provide any COVID-19 RELATED TESTING? If yes, or yes, depending on their country of origin, please note to which sending countries this applies. Please be specific as to test type) and the time frame required (before or after arrival).</p>	<p>All travelers (including minors) arriving in Ecuador must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken no more than three (3) days before entering the country. Note that airlines may deny boarding to travelers who do not present proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test. Travelers who arrive in Ecuador without proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test must take, at their own expense, a COVID-19 PCR or rapid antigen test upon arrival. The traveler must then quarantine for ten (10) days. Residents of Ecuador may quarantine at the address they declare upon entry. Non-residents must quarantine at accommodations approved by the Ministries of Tourism and Government. Regardless of whether a negative COVID-19 PCR test is provided, random rapid antigen testing may be conducted at the airport and upon arrival. If the rapid antigen test is positive, the traveler must isolate for ten (10) days.</p>
	<p>VISA - Are there specific changes to the visa process?</p>	<p>No changes. Students must arrive with a Temp. Resident Student Visa. The full visa info will be shared in a timely manner.</p>

	<p>Will there be a QUARANTINE period? If yes, or yes, depending on their country of origin, please provide information to which sending countries this applies, place, duration and those responsible for the supervision of students during this period as well as consequences students will face if they do not abide as expected during this period. What are expected costs? Has it been included in the transfer price or will there be a separate charge?</p>	<p>International travelers who arrive in the country by air presenting a negative covid-19 PCR test will no longer have to perform mandatory preventive isolation. See above for additional info.</p>
	<p>Provide info on what to expect in LOGISTICS / ORIENTATION which may change due to COVID-19 precautions, e.g. will all orientations be virtual? If there are group gatherings, will there be special guidelines?</p>	<p>All other orientations will be evaluated accordingly. But given the current situation there will be most likely in person.</p>
<p>SCHOOL REALITIES <i>Provide information on how schools will be impacted by COVID-19 guidelines in the host country.</i></p>	<p>What are current plans? Will classes meet in-person every day? Are hours reduced? Will there be classes online? What tools will be needed, e.g. laptops?</p>	<p>Schools are still being held online. The Ministry of Education officially announced that there will be three educational offers at the national level: 1) In-person (that for the time being will remain virtually using a tool called "Aprendamos Juntos En Casa", 2) Open education (online modality) and 3) Homeschooling. Under the first modality, which contemplates the optional progressive return to classrooms, it will be properly coordinated with the National Emergency Operations Committee. Basically the students will return to in-person classes when the emergency committee gives the</p>

		green light. A laptop would be very useful while the classes remain online. Schools will provide all the necessary tools and platforms.
DAILY LIFE ACTIVITIES <i>Provide information about daily life (possibilities to meet with friends, do sports...).</i>	What will be the possibilities to meet with friends, do sports, use public transportation, etc. Include information on any new guidelines within your country about such activities.	Face masks while in public spaces is mandatory, as well as the social distancing rule. For the time being, there are not curfews and/or mobilization restrictions.
PACKING LIST <i>Provide recommendations for packing lists taking into consideration the recommendations of local and national authorities.</i>	What should the participant consider packing especially in regards to masks and other items recommended for safety? Will a laptop be required for school for example?	Yes, a laptop would be useful. Wearing a mask, keeping social distancing and always carrying a hand sanitizer will be strongly recommended. Masks and hand sanitizer are easily accessible.
INDEPENDENT TRAVEL <i>Please indicate how this might be affected.</i>	Will independent travel be allowed? a) Yes, as outlined in our Country Information booklet b) Yes, with some new restrictions c) No If 'Yes, with some new restrictions', please comment on the new restrictions. For example, will it be allowed within the host country? Outside of the host country borders?	Yes, as outlined in the MarketPlace, although each case will be carefully evaluated depending on where the pandemic stands.

<p>NATURAL FAMILY VISITS</p> <p><i>Please indicate how this might be affected.</i></p>	<p>Will visits from natural family and friends be allowed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Yes, as outlined in our Country Information booklet b) Yes, with some new restrictions c) No <p>If ‘Yes, with some new restrictions’, please comment on the new restrictions. For example, will the decision be made on a case by case basis? Will visits only be allowed at the end of the program?</p>	<p>Yes, as outlined in the MarketPlace, although each case will be carefully evaluated depending on where the pandemic stands.</p>
<p>PROGRAM TERMINATION</p> <p><i>Please indicate how this might be affected.</i></p>	<p>Will Program Releases be allowed at the end of the program?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Yes, as outlined in the Country information booklet b) Yes, with certain restrictions c) No <p>If ‘Yes, with some new restrictions’, please comment on the new restrictions. Please reach out directly to the partner to see how your pax may be impacted.</p>	<p>Exceptionally, a participant will be allowed to stay beyond the program's end (and only while his/her visa is valid) if at least one natural parent comes to Ecuador to pick up their child on end-of-stay. A confirmed return reservation and ticket must be presented. This will be handled directly between AFS Ecuador and the participant's sending office.</p>

<p>General Safety Precautions</p> <p><i>Please indicate what is expected in terms of general precaution.</i></p>	<p>What are the general safety precautions? E.g. social distancing, wearing mask, hand washing/sanitizer, greeting volunteers or host family upon arrival, etc.</p>	<p>Every AFS student should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wash his/her hands frequently. - Avoid close contact and keep social distancing - Cover the nose and mouth with a mask when around others. - Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or with the inside of the elbow. - Clean and disinfect surfaces often. - Monitor his/her health on the daily basis.
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