Committee to Re-open Campus
International Sub-Committee
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International students and scholars, once on campus, will follow all the safety and social distancing guidelines and protocols set by the University. Reconfiguration of the usual classroom environment may be necessary in order to comply with social distancing guidelines, and the University will have a policy on the use of masks. Screening questions and the use of infrared thermometers at building entrances may be required to gain entrance. In these cases, persons with risk of exposure or those with a temperature above a level recommended by USA Health will not be allowed to enter and will be asked to self-quarantine and contact Student Health or their personal health care provider. Guidelines for masks and temperature screening will be determined by the University Committee for Reopening Campus.

1. Pre-Arrival
   a. What the institution needs to do:
      i. Provide clear announcement regarding course methodology expectations. This announcement should detail items such as online, hybrid, percentage of in-person vs. distance learning courses to be offered and available, and how the university will count all those considerations as full-time academic status (ex. If traditional courses will include less than 40% face-to-face and more zoom meetings, etc.). F-1 and J-1 students are only allowed one (up to 3 credit hours) online course to count towards their full-time status according to regulations.
         1. The Principal Designated School Official/PDSO (Director of Immigration) must submit the academic instruction plan to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to proactively report how the institution will consider an international student maintaining their required full-time enrollment while the institution is providing courses, but not back to typical instructional offerings [regulations 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6) and 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6)(i)(G)].
         2. This report must be submitted within 10 calendar days of a decision being made public by the institution.
      ii. Make a decision about whether (and under what conditions) USA students/faculty can participate in fall 2020 and spring 2021 study abroad programs and communicate the decision to all parties. Considerations include current Office of International Education policies on Department of State and Center for Disease Control travel advisories.
iii. Establish and announce guidelines detailing any requirements for all USA students arriving to campus. New and returning international students arriving on campus for Fall 2020 will follow University protocol for education, screening, and testing. Global USA will communicate any University requirements to all new and returning international students.

iv. If the University establishes a protocol which requires a 14-day self-quarantine, it is recommended to ensure that students who are planning to live on campus will have access to their on-campus Housing and Dining services during this time.

b. New international students who are able to come to campus:
   i. Must also go through an online orientation to further limit access when arriving to campus.
   ii. Athletes who have an earlier reporting date for their specific sport will be encouraged to arrive in the US two (2) weeks prior to their report date.
   iii. Students may arrive in the US thirty (30) days prior to the start date listed on their I-20/DS-2019 (August 11 for degree-seeking and exchange).
   iv. The last day to report to campus, attend orientation, meet academic advisors, and register for class is August 21 at 8:00am (last day of late registration). Exceptions could be made for graduate students with approval from their department and Graduate School.

c. New international students who are not able to travel to the US due to travel restrictions/visa appointments delays or availability/etc. but still want to enroll at the University for the Fall semester:
   i. Must attend an online orientation session
   ii. Must communicate with their academic advisor to register for appropriate courses

d. New international students who are not able to travel to the US due to travel restrictions/visa appointments delays or availability/etc. and choose to defer to a later semester
   i. Must ensure that scholarships and any graduate assistant funding can defer to their start date

e. International Medical Graduates/Alien Physicians
   i. J-1 Physicians will be notified by an official letter on department letterhead to arrive in Mobile, Alabama no less than two weeks before their respective program orientation date in order to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms while practicing social distancing measures.
   ii. Asymptomatic or foreign national physicians who believed they have been exposed to COVID-19 are required to follow the USA Health Protocol found at USA Health Employee COVID-19 Exposures/Work Restrictions
   iii. All International Medical Graduates (IMG) will be required to report any COVID-19 symptoms to their GME Program Coordinator and Program Director. Refer to COVID-19 Employee Screening Guidelines for reportable symptoms and USA established guidelines. In addition, any
IMG or alien physician that tests positive for COVID-19 must report the test results to the Office of Immigration immediately.

1. If a GME trainee has a positive COVID-19 test, s/he can enter the USA Health system once both of the following conditions are met: (1) the later of ten (10) days following the onset of symptoms or remaining asymptomatic for three (3) days; AND (2) two negative tests for COVID-19 PCR, conducted at least 24 hours apart. The resident must notify his/her program coordinator/program director of the return date. The trainee will self-quarantine during this time according to CDC guidelines https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html

2. If a GME trainee has a negative COVID-19 test, s/he can enter the USA Health system after being afebrile for 24 hours without antipyretics. The resident/fellow must notify the program coordinator/program director of the return date.

f. Foreign national professors, post-docs, researchers
   i. Incoming J-1 professors, post-docs, and researchers will be advised on social distancing protocol and reporting requirements if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Incoming J-1 researchers and post-docs are required to follow the Guidance on Research Conducted Remotely that has been issued by Research and Economic Development if remote research is required.
   ii. Per the Department of State (DOS), all incoming J-1s have been deferred to report no earlier than June 01, 2020. DOS could push the deferment date back even further. The Office of Immigration is staying abreast of this requirement and will comply if DOS changes the deferment date.
   iii. Any J-1 researcher or post-doc required to work remotely is required to notify the Office of Immigration.
   iv. No determination has been made as to whether foreign nationals reporting to the main campus in these J-1 categories will be required to self-quarantine upon arrival in Mobile, AL. Currently, this is only a requirement for those reporting under USA Health. This committee recommends that the 14-day self-quarantine be extended to the main campus for all incoming J-1s. A foreign national in J-1 status can enter the U.S. up to 30 days before their program start date. We can request incoming J-1s arrive in Mobile, Alabama no later than two weeks before their respective program start date to meet the 14-day self-quarantine requirement. An alternative would be to implement some form of protocol to ensure incoming J-1s are not infected with COVID-19.

2. Arrival for students/scholars:
   a. New international students
      i. Will still be offered arrival assistance from the Mobile Regional Airport.
      ii. Masks will be provided for both driver and student.
iii. Upon arrival, our community partners, along with the Office of International Admissions and Student Programs, will assist the students with immediate needs. These items include the set-up of housing, utilities, groceries, etc.

b. Continuing international students
   i. If they are still in the United States, students/scholars will follow the same start dates and the same regulations as domestic students.
   ii. If they are coming in from outside of the US, students/scholars will follow the same procedures as new international students coming in from outside the US.
   iii. Students who require a visa renewal will be subject to the same requirements as new international students who are unable to travel to the U.S. and will be given the option to enroll online for the fall semester.

3. When Classes Start:
   a. New and continuing international students who are not on campus (those students who are still abroad but intending to take courses will do so in an online format).
      i. Ensure there are enough fully online course offerings for students to continue their degree. These will be courses suggested by their academic advisor that will be useful to their major.
      ii. These courses should not have synchronous activity due to students' various time zones.
      iii. Faculty and Advisors will need to make advising slots and some office hours available at times other than what are considered normal working hours for students in international time zones.
      iv. Virtual services such as the computer help desk will need to expand or change their hours and/or have technology help on-call for students in international time zones.
      v. Those students enrolling outside the US in online courses will not have a credit hour enrollment requirement as they have not "activated" their F-1 status by entering the US.
   b. International students who are on campus
      i. New and continuing students who are currently in the US must be present on campus no later than August 21, 2020.
      ii. These students will be required to enroll in full-time hours (12 credit hours for undergraduates/6 credit hours for graduates).

4. In the event a student/scholar becomes ill:
   a. International students who are on campus must contact the Office of International Admissions and Student Programs (OIASP) at sign of illness. OIASP will then contact the Student Health Center to begin protocol.
      i. The student/scholar will be quarantined until arrangements are made with Student Health for testing.
      ii. Once a testing outcome is decided, the student will follow treatment (which may include quarantine) from the Student Health Center.
iii. Follow-up testing may be needed in order for the student to return to regular campus activities and class schedule.

iv. The Office of Immigration must be notified of any J-1 degree seeking or exchange student who has a positive COVID19 test. An Incident Report must be filed by the Responsible Officer (Director of Immigration) to the Department of State notifying them of the illness. Please note, F-1 students do not have the same requirement.

b. The Office of Immigration, the Office of International Admissions and Student Programs, the Office of International Education and the Office of Global Outreach may need to work with other departments to notify parents/family members/partner institutions/sponsors of the student’s illness. Scholars would fall under post-doc and employee protocols.
   i. FERPA will allow notification of parents/guardians in the case of a health or safety emergency. Students will also be asked to provide contact information for a person or persons they would like to be contacted in the event of non-emergency illness.

c. All study abroad students will be enrolled in the university’s international insurance policy, CISI.
   i. Students must communicate any signs of illness to the Office of International Education.
   ii. The student will abide by the host institution’s protocol.

5. In the event of another campus closure:
   a. International students/scholars will be notified by the University if campus closure is imminent. Given the duration of the closure or University procedure at the time, students may be given the option to leave the US and continue studies at home.
      i. Students must communicate their travel plans to the Office of International Admissions and Student Programs and the Office of Immigration.
      ii. The Office of Immigration will continue to use Qualtrics surveys to monitor student movement both domestically and abroad.
      iii. If students are unable to leave the US due to travel restrictions, the Office of International Admissions and Student Programs will continue to work with students while they are in the area.
      iv. The Office of International Admissions and Student Programs will work with Housing and Dining to ensure those students who are unable to leave in the event of campus closure can remain in campus housing.
   b. The Office of Immigration will notify students/scholars, as well as Global USA and University administration, of guidance/directives given by any Department of Homeland Security agency regarding their immigration status.
   c. Study abroad students will be notified by the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, host institution or country, and/or the Office of International Education if there are pertinent changes in the host country. Given the nature of the changes and/or host university procedure at the time, students may be encouraged to return to the US. Students must communicate their travel plans to the Office of
International Education. If students are unable to continue their studies remotely, the Office of International Education will work with the students and departments to help them continue academic progress if desired.

d. The Office of International Admissions and Student Programs will assist in applying for emergency funding, if needed, in the event that students must remain in the US longer than they had intended or if families abroad are impacted and cannot work or send money due to restrictions in students' home countries.