

UWC Mostar COVID-19 arrival protocol August 2022

Dear students

It is a sad fact that numbers of COVID-19 infections are on the rise again. While we will be able to return to many activities that are an important component of UWC Mostar life, like service CAS projects within various institutions in Mostar, Project weeks outside of Mostar and immersing ourselves in the life of city as much as possible, we have to take care that our community and communities we are interacting with are protected.

Young people and especially vaccinated young people are considered a low-risk group for serious illness or death if they contract Covid-19. However, the longer-term effects of this infection are not fully known or understood and it is the responsibility of every member of our community to avoid any unnecessary risks.

UWC Mostar follows guidelines given by the health administration office of our canton and the country, but given our close-knit community, we have to take additional precautions as well.

Any student, who has not had the opportunity to receive a full course of Covid-19 vaccinations before they arrive, can do so once in Mostar. For this, however parent's approval is required if the students are not 18 yet. We recommend every member of our community is fully vaccinated (at least two doses of the vaccination) as we are a closely knit mostly residential community.

UWC Mostar has reserved a limited number of rooms as potential isolation facilities. If however a widespread outbreak of Covid-19 infection should occur in our community, it might be that infected students with minor symptoms need to remain in their shared rooms, wearing masks and switching to online classes. . Alternatively, if required, external premises can be used for isolation and the parents requested to pay for the cost of isolation.

Student Responsibilities when travelling to UWC Mostar:

It is the responsibility of each student to check and meet the Covid-19 requirements of any transportation that they will use to travel to UWC Mostar. This is particularly important if a student is travelling by air. Please confirm travel restrictions and Covid-19

requirements for any airport or country you will be passing through and for the airline you will be using.

Currently, there are no Covid-19 entry requirements into Bosnia and Hercegovina. <https://granpol.gov.ba/Content/Read/74?title=Covid-19>. If any changes should occur, UWC Mostar will inform all Students, Parents and Guardians by Email.

Preparing to travel:

We recommend that in the days before travelling to UWC Mostar, students live (and say farewell to family and friends) in a manner which reduces risk of them catching Covid-19.

The basic ways of keeping Covid-19 “safer” have not changed:

- Wash your hands
 - Wear your mask properly
 - Avoid the three Cs: close-contact settings, crowded places and closed spaces
- If a student develops symptoms that potentially could be a sign of Covid-19 infection, you should tests and travel only if your test is negative.

In the Airport, Airplane, Bus or Train:

Students should wear FFP2 or medical masks while travelling to UWC Mostar, only removing these to drink or to eat.

Arrival in Bosnia and Hercegovina/Croatia:

While it is not a requirement by the law, we ask all our students to wear suitable masks (e.g. FFP2, or a medical mask) when travelling by public transport

For students that will be picked up from Split/ Sarajevo airports masks will be provided.

Arrival in Mostar:

Each student will do an antigen rapid Covid—19 self-test on arrival in their respective residence. If you do not know how to do it, House Parents and 2nd year students will help train you on how to do it. Some Parents and Guardians will bring their children to Campus. There will be a possibility of meeting some members of staff Sunday, 28th of August in Velić building courtyard at 10 am-12 pm and from 7 pm to 8:30 pm , and

refreshments will be available. Parents and Guardians who wish to enter (briefly) school buildings need to be masked and tested. Antigen tests will be available together with the refreshments.

Home students from Mostar should test as well at home before joining our Induction Week activities on Monday the 29th of August.

Masks:

UWC Mostar will provide FFP 2 and medical masks for students and staff who wish to protect themselves (and others) through mask wearing – there is evidence that wearing an FFP 2 mask provides a level of personal protection, see for instance <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>

Hygiene:

All students must practice personal hygiene at all times. Good handwashing with soap should always be done after touching any surface or in other cases that require contact. A regular shower is also essential for the maintenance of general health and well-being, in addition to the complete disinfection of your body.

When you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow. Dispose of used tissues immediately in the trash bin. Wash your hands immediately with soap and water or an alcohol-based product, as recommended by the Ministry of Public Health. Also avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Staying in rooms:

Rooms should be aired daily and surfaces sanitized regularly. The students who live in the respective rooms will be responsible for airing and sanitizing their own rooms.

Staying Outdoors:

Weather permitting, as many as possible of the Induction events are planned to take place outdoors, where infection risks are lower.

Classrooms:

For the first two weeks, all students and staff will be expected to wear masks in closed spaces like classrooms. This will be revisited in the light of the pandemic situation after the two weeks are over.

Note:

This Protocol will be updated regularly depending on the COVID-19 situation development in the city of Mostar, the recommendation given by the authorities and our own medical team.