

## **Experience the South Caucasus Fellowship Program COVID-19 Protocol**

The American Research Institute of the South Caucasus takes Fellows' safety seriously. Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, Fellows' travel will resume when travel restrictions are lifted. ARISC will continue to monitor the situation and will work with Fellows to confirm travel plans per guidance from the [U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories](#), [U.S. Center for Disease Control Travel Advisories](#), and the U.S. Embassies in [Armenia](#), [Azerbaijan](#), and [Georgia](#). Fellows flexibility is requested should travel to any one country not be allowable or advisable. ARISC reserves the right to change Fellows' country or place of internship.

As you might already be aware, U.S. missions across the world strongly recommend all travelers to be vaccinated before departing the United States on any trip. While having a Covid-19 vaccine is not a requirement for participating in the program, we ask in order to best support your arrival given multiple variables. If you are willing to share, please confirm your vaccination status at your earliest convenience.

### **Entry to Armenia, Azerbaijan, or Georgia**

Fellows will be required to follow protocol for entry as set by [Armenia](#), [Azerbaijan](#), and [Georgia](#). ARISC will inform Fellows of any changes to protocol.

### **While in Armenia, Azerbaijan, or Georgia**

Fellows will be required to follow local regulations and protocol regarding safety to decrease chances of COVID spread. On a daily basis, Fellows will be required to take their temperature and assess their symptoms and report any concerns to the local Resident Director. Fellows will be required to properly wear masks at their place of internship and during all ARISC indoor activities. Partnering local institutions where the Fellow will work on their project will also ensure a safe work environment. ARISC will provide hand sanitizers at ARISC events.

### **Should Fellows Contract COVID in the South Caucasus**

Partnering local institutions where the Fellow will work on their project will be required to report whether any of their employees has contracted COVID and whether the Fellow will need to take a COVID test or quarantine. Fellows who will be in regular contact with one another will be required to do the same.

Should Fellows contract COVID in the South Caucasus, they must immediately notify the local Resident Director. ARISC will follow CDC and local regulations for safety. The

Fellow will be required to quarantine and might need to change their lodging situation. The local Resident Director will check in with them regularly and have them seek medical assistance as needed.

**Return to the U.S.**

Effective December 6, 2021, all airline passengers to the United States ages two years and older, regardless of vaccination status or citizenship, must provide a negative COVID-19 viral test taken within one calendar day of travel. Alternatively, travelers to the United States may provide documentation from a licensed health care provider of having recovered from COVID-19 in the 90 days preceding travel. Visit the [CDC website](#) for more information.

These protocols may be updated as the situation changes.