Leaving the Santa Barbara Area During COVID-19 Pandemic

UPDATE: As of 11/13/20, The California Department of Public Health advises:

Travel Advisory for Non-Essential Travel

1. Persons arriving in California from other states or countries, including returning California residents, should practice self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival. These persons should limit their interactions to their immediate household. This recommendation does not apply to individuals who cross state or country borders for essential travel.
2. Californians are encouraged to stay home or in their region and avoid non-essential travel to other states or countries. Avoiding travel can reduce the risk of virus transmission and bringing the virus back to California.

Santa Barbara County is currently subject to Governor Newsom’s stay-at-home order which means that you should not be traveling at all if you are currently in Santa Barbara County as you are subject to these restrictions which currently extend until December 28, 2020. We are actively discouraging students from traveling over the winter break because of the serious risk of spreading COVID-19 to family and friends and also of bringing it back to our community. Anyone leaving and returning to the area should be tested both before departure and upon return to the area.

UCSB values our international community and recognizes that there may be a need to travel during this pandemic. The following information is guidance to keep you and your community safe before, during and after your travels.

If circumstances require you to travel away from the UCSB area:

Prior to Departure…

- Arrange for COVID-19 testing no more than 72 hours prior to departure
- After your test you should self-quarantine to avoid further possible exposure

While Away…

- Wear a mask at all times
- Maintain physical distancing
- Avoid social gatherings
- Wash your hands frequently
- Continue to complete the daily symptom survey if you live in campus-owned housing or must be on campus for in-person instruction, labs or work.

Upon Returning…

- Arrange for testing within 48 hours of returning
  - UCSB Student Testing
  - Santa Barbara County Public Health Testing
- Enter a 7-day sequestration period (14 days if you are arriving from out of state)
  - Do not leave your apartment except for essential activities (such as urgent medical appointments)
If you share space, wear a mask in your apartment except when in your personal bedroom or in the shower

- Maintain physical distancing within your apartment or residential complex.
  - Set up a kitchen schedule so residents do not occupy the kitchen at the same time
- Wipe down all surfaces with appropriate cleaners in all common areas after use

- Take a second COVID-19 test 7 days after returning to ensure that infection has not subsequently developed

- If both tests are negative and you have completed your sequestration period
  - You may resume normal activities, including on-campus classes, labs and work, while continuing to follow all COVID-19 public health protocols.
  - Wear a face covering at all times when outside of your residential unit, except while eating or exercising
  - Maintain physical distancing at all times
  - Frequently wash your hands
  - Continue to monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, remain in your bedroom, contact the UCSB COVID-19 response team:
    - 805-893-7129 for Student Health Advice Nurses
    - 805-893-3113 or ucsb-covid19@ucsb.edu for COVID-19 Call Center

Click here for tips on protecting yourself and your community after you travel.

If you are leaving the country, please see the CDC travel destination information.