The safety and well-being of students, faculty, and staff is our top priority, so we are working to take all precautions as necessary and follow all local guidelines and regulations in order to ensure that the program can be carried out safely and effectively for all parties involved. Please find below information and links to resources about how COVID-19 might impact the upcoming study abroad experience so that you can remain informed as the situation evolves. Please note that these protocols as well as participation policies may need to be modified at any time prior to departure or while in-country.

ISOS has useful trip planning information including a specific tab for COVID Trip Planning and it can be found here: https://www.internationalsos.com/MasterPortal/default.aspx?membnum=11BSGC000064

**Vaccination Requirement**
All students are required to follow Columbia University’s vaccine and booster mandate in order to participate in a Columbia Led or Columbia Approved program. Exemptions are not allowed. Please read more Summer 2022 Planning Resources available on the UGE website.

**Flights, Entry Requirements & Arrival**
There are currently no entry requirements for the UK related to COVID: https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control. Please continue to check this prior to your departure in case anything should change.

**COVID Mitigation**
The UK has removed Coronavirus restrictions in England. Local guidance on how to protect yourself from COVID can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Students are strongly urged to continue to take personal health measures to protect themselves, including social distancing, wearing masks (we recommend KN95 or FFP2 masks), and avoiding crowded areas with poor ventilation. Students will be expected to do daily symptom self-monitoring and obligatory observing of pandemic risk mitigation policies. We encourage students to self-test regularly to keep themselves and others safe. Rapid antigen, or as called in the UK lateral flow tests, are not free in the UK, so we encourage students to bring a stock of tests.

Currently in the UK there is no legal requirement for self-isolation following a positive COVID-19 test – however we ask students to act responsibly, and consider the importance of mitigating risk to others. Should a participant test positive to COVID-19 during the program, we ask that they take the following actions:

1. Notify the onsite staff, and self-isolate as soon as possible. The onsite staff will make sure the student is aware of resources that would support their care or recovery. The UK currently recommends limiting all social contact for 5 days after a positive test.
2. We will encourage all participants to take a lateral flow test or rapid antigen test. The program will not be supplying them, so as mentioned above we ask everyone to secure their own stock of tests.

3. All other participants will be encouraged to wear a KN95 or FFP2 mask. The program will not be supplying masks, so we encourage students to bring a stock of high quality masks with them.

Students who test positive can isolate in program housing. Meals can be cooked on the premises, or food can be ordered in.

Please note that due to the pandemic, it may be that the UK reinstates restrictions on events and activities involving larger groups of people, such as sports games, concerts, club life, conferences, meetings, etc. Access to various cultural activities and events may be curtailed, restricted, regulated via online tickets only, etc. The program expects all staff and participants to act responsibly and in accordance with clearly announced regulations and policies with respect to the pandemic, both on- and off-campus. Any extracurricular activities will be contingent upon COVID-19 restrictions and considerations.

**Academic Policies**

Should general pandemic developments or an individual COVID infection interfere with the completion of the course, the program will make arrangements as the local environment allows so that all students or the affected individual participant can continue his/her/their coursework and studies in order to complete the course. To prepare for this, all students should bring their own laptops to use.

If pandemic-related developments, such as a renewed lockdown, impact the program in its entirety, arrangements will be made for all students to complete the term via online instruction. The program will make every effort to enable participants to remain in the UK and complete the term successfully on-site, most likely via online instruction. If the situation necessitates students’ departure from the UK in order to return home, the program staff will assist where it can but students will be responsible for organizing and paying for their own flight arrangements.

**Health Insurance & Local Healthcare**

As part of the program, you will have health insurance for urgent and emergent illness and injury while abroad. This insurance is provided at no cost to you via Zurich. Routine and preventive care is not included so you should maintain a health insurance policy that will provide coverage outside the U.S.

Zurich health insurance, which students are covered under by Columbia University, would cover COVID testing for symptomatic individuals. Individuals can call ISOS to set up a testing appointment on their behalf, or they can pay for the test out of pocket and contact Global Travel at CU to submit the claim to get reimbursed through Zurich. Testing would not be covered by Zurich if it is required when entering or exiting the UK.

**Personal Travel**

Travel outside of the UK is discouraged while the program is in session. Furthermore, any independent travel should be limited to days during which there are no program activities planned.
Students are required to enter any travel outside of the UK into their ISOS MyTrips account. Failure to do so may result in a warning or disciplinary action. Please note that travel restrictions may change while you are traveling, and if you are unable to return to the UK we will not be able to offer any support. Any missed classes or class activities because of independent travel plans is not permitted and you will not be able to make up any missed work.

**Refund & Withdrawal Policy**
Students may withdraw from this program at any time. If dismissed, students will not receive a refund. If withdrawing prior to the program start date, students must notify their UGE adviser in writing. After the program has started, students wishing to withdraw from the program must notify their UGE adviser and the Faculty Directors in writing. Failure to attend classes or non-responsiveness does not constitute formal withdrawal and will result in failing grades in the summer course. Please refer to the refund schedule on the UGE website and note that any adjustment of the tuition that the student has paid is calculated from the date on which the student's written notification is received by the relevant parties.

**Resources**
- https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus