Happy New Year everyone! We hope all of you had some time to relax with family and friends. It has been an eventful break filled with several important announcements, so here is a recap as you plan your entry to the U.S. and prepare for the start of the Spring 2022 semester.

**Update on Plans for the Spring Semester** [1]

- On December 22, President Salovey informed the Yale Community that for public health reasons, the spring semester will, for most schools, begin on Tuesday, January 25th with two weeks of remote classes. In person classes, again for most schools, will commence on Monday, February 7th. Check with your school for specific dates.
- As international students, you may be wondering if this delayed and remote start affects your immigration status. It does not, nor does it affect your eligibility for OPT or CPT, if you are a full-time student for the spring semester and resume your in-person classes on the date designated by your school.
- If any additional changes to the semester are announced, we will be in touch where necessary with our international community.

**COVID-19 Testing Guidance Prior to and Upon Returning to Campus** [2]
On December 29, the university notified all graduate and professional students that both a pre-arrival and arrival COVID-19 test will be required when returning to campus. Yale College students received an email from Dean Boyd [3] on January 4. Be sure to read through the email carefully to make sure you are fulfilling these university requirements.
New Booster and Flu Shot Requirement [4]
On December 17th, the university announced that all students who are eligible will be required to receive boosters before returning to campus for the spring semester. There will be a small number of students who will not yet be eligible for boosters at the start of the semester. These students may return to campus but must receive their boosters within 7 days of becoming eligible. Make sure to schedule [5] your booster as soon as possible if you have not done so already. If you have questions about your booster status, please call the Campus COVID Resource Line at 203-432-6604 (toll free at 866-924-9253). Available 8:30am–5pm (EST), 7 days a week.

In addition, all students are required to be vaccinated for the flu. Go here to schedule a flu shot [6].

Travel Documents and Vaccine/Testing Requirements to Enter the U.S. [7]

- If you are returning to the U.S., make sure all your immigration document are in order. Go here [7] for more details.
- All air passengers to the U.S are required to show a negative COVID-19 test [8] taken no more than one day prior to travel to the United States. In addition, all persons traveling to the U.S. by air who are not U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents, must show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. There are a few exceptions to this rule. For more details, please review the university’s travel policy [9] which has links to other sites, including the CDC.
- The Biden administration has rescinded the travel restrictions on Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe effective December 31, 2021. Vaccine requirements will remain in effect.

Staying in Touch with OISS [10]
All OISS support will be provided virtually until February 7th when we hope to re-open the office for limited services if the public health situation permits. Until then, our office will be open for pick-ups and drop-offs, by appointment only [11]. Please use our Connect with OISS page [12] to email your adviser, set-up a virtual appointment, or join our virtual drop-in hours that we provide Mondays-Friday.

As always, we will continue to update you as changes come up and please don’t hesitate to contact us [12] if you have questions or concerns.

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