



Spring 2021 Arrival

Tufts International Center
Special Forum

January 13, 2021

Before We Get Started

- Please mute your audio
- Submit questions into the Q&A box
- This session will be recorded – a link to the recording will be sent to registered participants
- This PowerPoint will be available on the International Center's COVID-19 information site, at <https://icenter.tufts.edu/immigration/covid-19>, click on “International Center Open Forum Resources”

Session Agenda

- Immigration Updates and Travel Restrictions
- Traveling to the US and Tufts Campus
- COVID Testing and Health Requirements
- Move-in Dates for On-Campus Housing
- Practical Tips and Suggestions
- SSN/ITINs
- Q&A

Disclaimer

- Information presented today is subject to change as COVID-19 and other conditions evolve
- Please keep up to date by reading our emails and going to our web site at <https://icenter.tufts.edu>
- Additional information through Tufts at <https://coronavirus.tufts.edu>

COVID-19 and Traveling to Massachusetts

Go to: <https://icenter.tufts.edu/immigration/covid-19/traveling-to-massachusetts/>



The screenshot shows the Tufts International Center website. The header includes the Tufts logo and a search bar. The main navigation menu lists: About Us, Coming to Tufts, Immigration, Programs, Practical Matters, Departments, Contact Us, and COVID-19. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: [Home](#) / [Immigration](#) / [International Center Updates on COVID-19](#) / [COVID-19 and Traveling to Massachusetts](#). The main content area features the title "COVID-19 and Traveling to Massachusetts" and a sub-header "Updated January 12, 2021". The text provides guidance for international students and scholars, noting that the information is subject to change and advising them to consult multiple resources. A blue-bordered box contains a warning: "Do not travel if you are feeling unwell, or if you have been in close contact within the past 14 days with someone who was or is ill."

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COVID-19 and Traveling to Massachusetts

Updated January 12, 2021

The following guidance has been prepared for international students and scholars who are preparing to come to Tufts this Spring 2021 term. The guidance has been developed in conjunction with other university resources including information found at <https://coronavirus.tufts.edu>. Please note that information on this page may change with little advance notice due to shifting COVID-19 pandemic conditions. Please check back regularly and consult multiple information resources as you plan your travel.

This guidance does not provide any guarantee that you will be able to enter either the US or another country successfully. Given changing worldwide conditions, different countries and airlines may impose their own health requirements and travel restrictions. Always consult with the information provided to you by your home country health and government authorities as well as the resources below when making your plans.

Do not travel if you are feeling unwell, or if you have been in close contact within the past 14 days with someone who was or is ill.

Immigration Arrival (NEW)

- **Announced on January 12** Effective January 26, per an order from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

Air passengers are required to get a [viral test](#) (a test for current infection) within the 3 days before their flight to the U.S. departs, and provide written documentation of their laboratory test result (paper or electronic copy) to the airline or provide documentation of having recovered from COVID-19. Airlines must confirm the negative test result for all passengers or documentation of recovery before they board. If a passenger does not provide documentation of a negative test or recovery, or chooses not to take a test, the airline must deny boarding to the passenger.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0112-negative-covid-19-air-passengers.html>

Immigration Updates and Travel Restrictions

- Current COVID-19 entry suspensions apply to persons physically present in the 14 days prior to arriving from China, Brazil, Iran, and the Schengen area of western Europe (as well as the UK / Ireland)
- F-1 students and their dependents who were present in the Schengen area (as well as the UK / Ireland) for 14 days prior to entering the US should be allowed to enter at one of 15 designated airports, per [US Customs and Border Protection](#) guidance; however, travelers transiting through the Schengen area or the UK / Ireland may be subject to COVID-19 travel suspension
- COVID-19 travel suspensions may change in the coming weeks; please read updates as they become available

Entering the US (F-1 / J-1 Visa Holders)

- Carry the following documents
 - An unexpired passport valid at least six months into the future
 - A valid F-1 or J-1 visa (exception: Canadian citizens are not required to have visas to enter in F-1 or J-1 status)
 - Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 (continuing / returning students should have a valid travel signature no more than one year old on the date of return)
 - I-901 SEVIS fee payment receipt (F-1 / J-1 visa holders only)
 - Supporting documents such as your Tufts admission letter, financial documents, employment offer from Tufts
- Be sure to enter in **F-1 status or J-1 status** when processing entry at kiosk and/or with CBP Officer

Traveling to the Medford Campus

- Easiest option is to take a Lyft or Uber to campus
 - Have your destination address easily accessible
 - Will need to walk to Central Parking Garage to access these cars
- Taking a taxi is another option
 - This is usually slightly more expensive than Lyft or Uber
- Taking the MBTA (subway) is another option but for Medford campus arrivals, requires a 15 minute walk to campus from Davis Square subway station
 - This option is free if you take the Silver Line to South Station then switch to the Red Line (Outbound) towards Alewife
 - Get off at Davis Square
- Campus location and transportation information at <https://icenter.tufts.edu/coming-to-tufts/traveling-to-tufts>

After Settling In

- **Check online I-94 record at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/>**
 - **Make sure your Class of Admission is “F-1” or “J-1” and Admit Date Until is “D/S” – if any errors, contact International Center**
- Complete Canvas course for Immigration Orientation
 - Will receive an email containing a link to this course
- Complete Confirmation of Arrival electronic form
 - Upload your I-94 record and F-1/J-1 visa
 - Update US address in SIS
- Register for a full course load in SIS
 - First time in the US as F-1 student? You must register for at least one in-person or hybrid class – contact International Center if you have questions

Health Requirements

If you are a new student or returning student coming to campus for the first time, please review your health status on your [Patient Portal](https://tufts.medicatconnect.com/) (<https://tufts.medicatconnect.com/>) and complete all required items:

- Pre-Entrance Medical History Form
- TB Risk Assessment
- Immunizations
- Health Insurance info

Massachusetts state law requires immunization compliance for you to enroll in classes. If you are living in a country where a vaccine is not available to you, you will be able to get the vaccine once you arrive on campus at the Health Service. Please call 617-627-3350 to schedule your appointment.

For more information you can visit: <https://students.tufts.edu/health-and-wellness/resources-new-students>

Flu Vaccination Requirement

- Flu shots now required by Tufts for all undergraduate and graduate students
- Recommended to get your flu vaccine as soon as possible, even in your home country
- Upload proof of vaccination in your Patient Portal
- For more information, go to <https://coronavirus.tufts.edu/FluShot>

Health Insurance Re-Enrollment

- If you started studying outside the US during Fall 2020, but are now coming to campus, remember that you must have health insurance while in the US / on-campus
- **If you are a AS&E, SMFA, or Fletcher student and you waived participation in the Tufts student health insurance plan for Fall 2020, you must submit a request to re-enroll (if you have not done so already) in the Tufts student insurance plan**
 - **Re-enrollment is not automatic if you previously received a waiver**
- Send your name, student ID and indicate your request to re-enroll by email to studenthealthinsurance@tufts.edu.

COVID-19 Arrival / Surveillance Testing, Vaccinations

- Comprehensive information for AS&E at <https://coronavirus.tufts.edu/testing-at-tufts>
- If you are receiving the COVID-19 vaccination in your home country, complete the vaccination sequence (if applicable) before coming to the US
- Even students with completed COVID-19 vaccinations will need to follow all University protocols about testing, social distancing, masks, hand washing, and other safety guidelines
- For information about Tufts's vaccination plan go to <https://coronavirus.tufts.edu/healthytufts/covid-19-vaccinations-tufts>

Positive COVID-19 Test Prior to Arrival?

If you tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days prior to arrival follow this information:

- If you report a positive test that obtained outside of Tufts, go to the site below where you can upload a copy of your lab report. The report will be reviewed and you will be notified if you can be exempted from testing for 90 days.
- https://tufts.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cwFO1a1gVnFKTaJ

On-Campus Housing Move-In Dates

- Arrivals begin January 19th through end of month
- Try to arrive towards the beginning of arrival period – late arrival dates are already full / filling up
- Schedule your arrival testing through the Housing Portal
- Work with the Office of Residence Life (residentiallife@tufts.edu) with check-in and onboarding issues
- Unfortunately, not much flexibility to change arrival dates/times due to healthy and safety measures needed for safe onboarding and move-in
- Keep up on email notifications – arrival and onboarding schedule may change if COVID-19 conditions change significantly over the coming days and weeks

Practical Tips

- Cold Weather Clothing
 - Heavy jacket, sweater, scarf, gloves, hat, boots needed!
- US Cell Phone
 - If possible, have a US cell phone contact number prior to arrival - go to <https://icenter.tufts.edu/practical-matters/cell-phones> for resources and options, including internet-based phone numbers
- Bank Account
 - Tips and suggestions for banking options at <https://icenter.tufts.edu/practical-matters/banking-and-money/>
- Tufts Dining Meal Plan
 - If you are going to be on the Tufts Dining Plan, you must have a smartphone that can download apps from the US-based Apple Store or Android Play store – info on our Cell Phones page (URL listed in the bullet point above)

SSNs and ITINs

- SSN / ITIN needed if you are working (SSN) or receiving taxable scholarships or financial aid that does not require work (ITIN)
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Social Security Administration offices have been closed to walk-in service since this March
- If you have been authorized for employment and need an SSN, call Cambridge Social Security Office to schedule an appointment
- While Social Security also offers the option of mailing your application, the International Center does not recommend this procedure since it requires you to mail your original passport and other immigration documents
- Go to <https://icenter.tufts.edu/practical-matters/social-security> for more information
- If you already have SSN from previous job / work experience, then you do not need to reapply – SSNs are lifetime, permanent numbers

Questions

- Web: <https://icenter.tufts.edu>
 - <https://icenter.tufts.edu/immigration/covid-19>
 - Our home page contains quick links to many resources, including on-line appointment scheduling with an advisor
- Email: internationalcenter@tufts.edu
- Phone: 617-627-3458

The image features a dark grey background with three overlapping teal circles. A horizontal white band is centered across the middle of the circles. The text "THANK YOU FOR COMING" is written in a dark blue-grey font within this white band.

THANK YOU FOR COMING